The Shakerite

call WAITING

Think too much phone use is hazardous to your health? Think again. Students assess therapeutic benefits of phone gab.

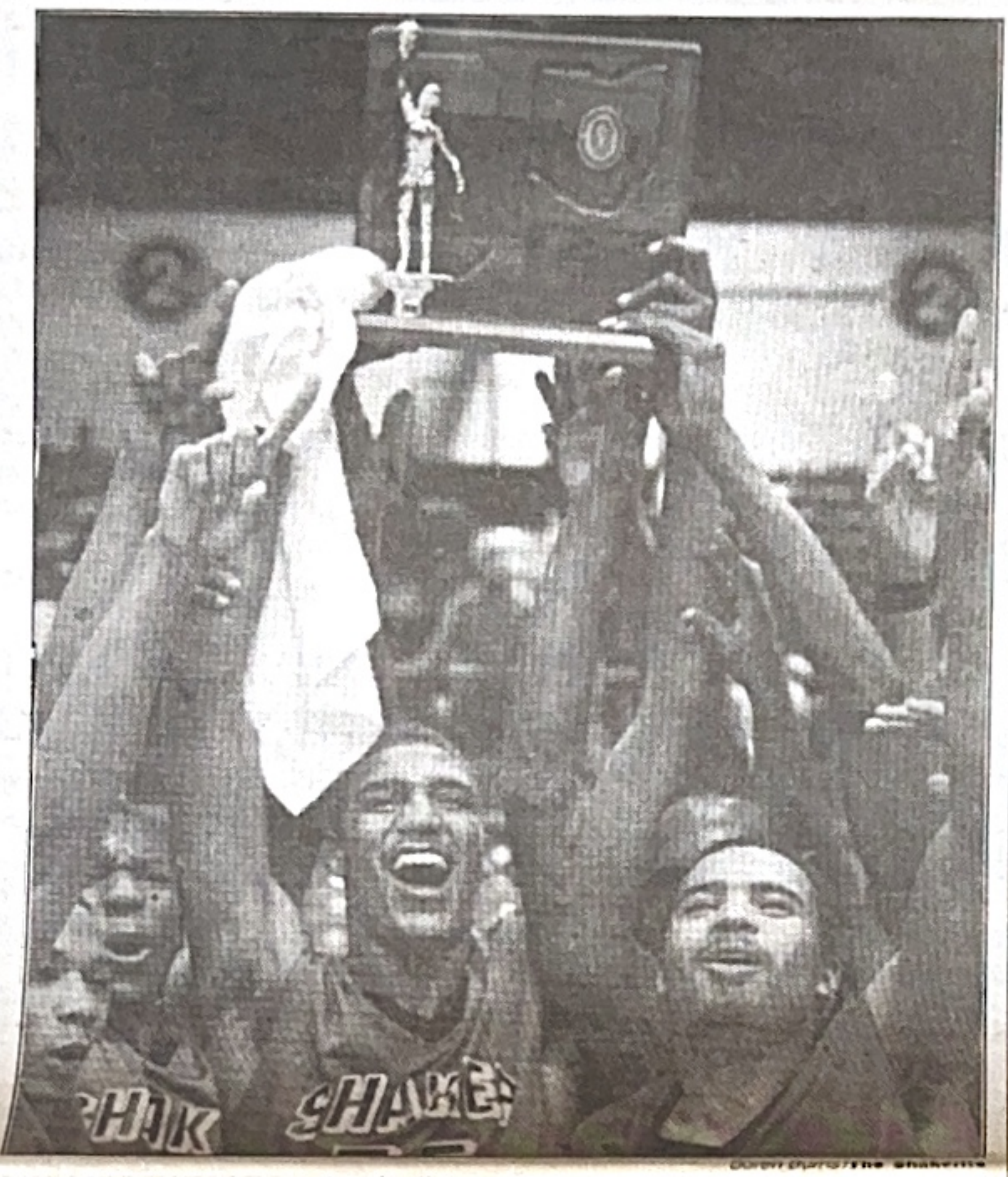
FEATURE, page 11

March 26, 1999 • Volume 69 • Issue 6 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Men's basketball squad to make final four debut

• Runnin' Raiders capture regional title with 56-39 win

By Danny George
Staff Reporter



Soren Burns/The Shakerite

An ordinary T-shirt may possess the secret ingredient that will propel the Shaker Raiders to their first ever state basketball championship.

The simple red and white shirt, which reads "State Bound, No Fear," across the chest, has been issued to every player to wear in the days leading up to each tournament game.

According to senior shooting guard Tim Reese, these garments, a gift from retired athletic director Jerry Mastellar, make much more than just a fashion statement.

"No fear is the attitude that we have to take down in Columbus with us," Reese said. "We're not just going down state. We're going down state to win."

Echoing Reese's statement was senior swingman Tyson Barnes.

"All we have to do is believe in ourselves and play with no fear," said the Elyria transfer, who poured 14 points into the Raiders' 56-39 drubbing of Youngstown Rayen. "This has been everyone's motivation since long before the season started. We're going to take it strong down state and settle for nothing less than our goal."

Raider Head Coach Bob Wonson sees the shirt's message as a challenge for his 24-1 squad, which is ranked 9th in the nation by *USA Today*.

"The fact that the shirts say 'state bound' puts a little added pressure on us, but if we do what it says and play with no fear, we will live up to the challenge that is facing us," Wonson said.

The Raiders' poised and confident attitude has managed to rub off on their fans.

"They play really confidently. They have great athletes that can make plays and aren't afraid to step it up," sophomore basketball enthusiast Roy Bragg said.

"It's simple. All around, they are the best team in the state," said Bragg, who has already made plans to watch the Raiders play two games in Columbus this weekend.

A rarity in any basketball tournament, the Runnin' Raiders have raced down the road to the state's final four with apparent ease.

They have smothered opponents with their up-tempo style and swarming defense, winning all five of their tournament games by an average of 33 points.

Their explosiveness and athleticism have allowed teams to stay in games for a length of time shorter than Master P's basketball career, and they pride themselves in their work ethic.

"We practice so hard and so intense," senior power forward Cullen Buie said, "but it all pays off when game time rolls around. By practicing hard, it makes our games a whole lot easier."

Soren Burns/The Shakerite

Senior Michael Tucker reaches for the rim before throwing down a dunk in the Raiders' 59 -36 defeat of Youngstown Rayen at The University of Akron Saturday. The Raiders savored victory, declaring themselves number one in the region. "There are no words that can describe the emotions and feelings I got when the final buzzer sounded," said senior Todd Finley

SEE HOOPS, PAGE4

Senior social room scribbles don't withstand test of time

• Inappropriate language prompts decision to repaint walls only days before construction

By Leah Kaufman
Staff Reporter

Seniors embellished the social room walls, but a few rowdy writings caused all the messages to be painted over only days before renovations began.

In the last week of February, a miscommunication between faculty occurred and markers were distributed to seniors, who used them to scrawl their names on the walls. Soon after, the graffiti was painted over by custodians. According to administration, repainting was necessary because obscenities were written on the walls.

"It wasn't until after hours when some people got in and wrote the obscenities on the wall," said Assistant Principal Richard Vlah.

The resolution to repaint and cover obscene writing upset some seniors, who doubted the need to hide their work.

"I don't think they should have written over it. No one is going to see it anyway," senior Jason Jackson said.

Sarah Floris/The Shakerite

Although most seniors wrote innocent messages, social room walls were repainted prior to demolition.

Fire alarm tests now complete

By Meghan Dubyak and Danielle LaGrange
Staff Reporter

Due to north gym renovations, the fire alarm system has been tested frequently.

"We had to disconnect the gym, choir room and social room [warning systems], and that's why there's been constant alarms," Head Custodian Tim Bates said.

Both students and teachers have expressed concern over continuous announcements to disregard the alarm while it is being serviced.

"It's disruptive and annoying to the classroom," science teacher Linda Loeffler said.

"I think it's ridiculous to keep interrupting classes for the fire system," senior Amy Warchock said.

The alarm and announcements have troubled students and faculty since the construction on the gym and social room began in early March, but students and administrators disagree on the frequency of the announcements. Some students speculate that the announcements have been made repeatedly.

"They've made about 20 announcements," Warchock said.

Administrators, however, count a much smaller number. Assistant Principals Ovella Roulette-McIntyre and Richard Vlah stated that the disruptions occurred a maximum of four times. In either case, concern has arisen regarding what would happen if a real fire occurred.

"If the fire alarms keep going off, then people would take a real fire less seriously," senior Melissa Koch said.

But administrators emphasize that Shaker students should feel no concern. An announcement was made Monday indicating the work was complete and any alarm should be heeded.

"We'd get on the PA if there was a real fire and alarm students," Vlah said.

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March 27, 10 a.m.
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Edgewater Park
$5 (216) 631-6676

Beginning April 1
- I-X Indoor Amusement Park
I-X Center
$10-$15
(216) 676-6000

Allison Pollock and Najah Farley

Penny Chang remembered at memorial

By Beth Dolinsky and Allison Pollock
Copy editor and Co-editor in chief

A memorial service was held in honor of Penny Chang at Shaker Middle School March 21.

Chang, a freshman, died March 16. She was shot and killed at the corner of Lee Road and Van Aken Bolevard while walking to school.

Chang attended Lomond Elementary and was a Shaker student for most of her school career. She was active in Computer Club at Woodbury and chorus at the middle school. At the high school, she participated in Chess Club.

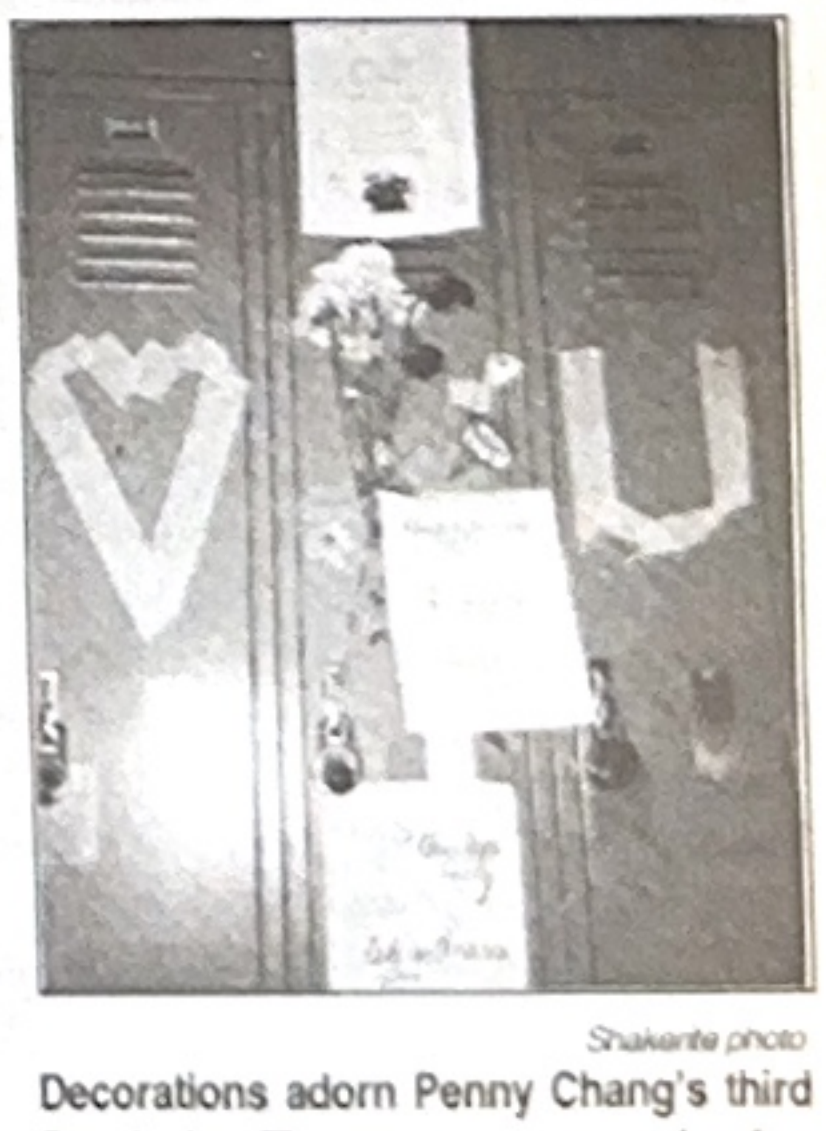
Belvia Martin, who was Penny's 2nd and 4th grade teacher, described her as a person who "always wanted to know. She wanted to get to the bottom of things."

"Always, Penny had a smile. Always, she would stop and say hello," 10th grade assistant principal John Addison said.

At the memorial, JoAnn Chang, Penny's sister, urged children to keep lines of communication open with their parents and siblings.

"There are no words to express what we are going through right now," JoAnn Chang said. "Nobody deserves this kind of tragedy."

She is survived by her parents, Ching Lung Chang and Yun Hua Chang, siblings, JoAnn ('92), Sean ('96) and Warren, a seventh grader at the middle school.



Shakerite photo

Decorations adorn Penny Chang's third floor locker. The messages were only a few that many students left in her memory.

Author revisits slavery for black history awareness

• Ball encourages students to recognize slavery's past

By Meghan Dubyak
Staff Reporter

"If we can learn something about our history, then we can break down the wall of resentment and begin the healing process."

These were just a few words of wisdom from national best-selling author Edward Ball.

A recent assembly featuring a conversation among Ball, civil rights activist and slave descendent Sonya Fordham and Professor Mwatabu Okantah was intended to bring issues of race to the minds of Shaker students and continue the celebration of Black History Month.

The assembly, which filled the auditorium twice on the morning of March 17, continued throughout the day and evening with follow-up dialogue sessions and a community assembly at the middle school.

The assembly was the result of a year of planning by Dr. William Newby, director of curriculum.

"The only way we can make progress on issues of race is if we can get to a point where we can openly discuss this difficult history and its current legacy," Newby said.

To make this progress, Newby contacted Edward Ball, whom he had seen on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. Ball, the descendent of slave-owning South Carolinians, won the National Book Award in 1998 in nonfiction for his book *Slaves in the Family*. The book documents Ball's research of his ancestors and the people they enslaved.

Ball accepted Newby's invitation.

"Blacks and whites can find common ground by exploring their connection in the past. I'm trying to bring this history to the surface so we can all live peacefully together," Ball said.

Sonya Fordham, an activist and a descendent of Ball family slaves, added insight to the assembly along with Professor Okantah, who moderated the conversation.

"I was taught never to be ashamed by slavery. It's important for us to gain everything we lost," Fordham said.

Reactions from Shaker students ranged from appreciation for Ball's effort to a feeling that his story did not shed new light on understanding slavery.

"I thought it was interesting that he's looking back into his past and the two sides are coming together," junior Julie Philipson said.

"We need to stop thinking so much about what happened to us in the past and worry about what is happening now," junior Samar Oden said. "We should be taught how to use the pain endured in the past as a reason to do more, say more and be more. The assembly did not incite that change."

Junior Andy Spencer felt the presentation was redundant.

"The assembly had good intentions but it did not add anything new to the story of slavery in America," Spencer said. "It was a reiteration, not a revolution."

Other students enjoyed the assembly.

"I was more impressed with Sonya than Edward Ball," junior Tiffany Williams said. "She gave more down to earth answers to the questions."

The Shakerite
Edward Ball, author of *Slaves in the Family*, speaks to Shaker students about accepting the past and moving on with life.

Abortion clinic plans passed despite protests

• City expects demonstrators, enacts no-trespassing zone

By Karen Jenks
Staff Reporter

The Shaker Heights Planning Department has reviewed and approved plans for an abortion clinic to be built within the next two months at the corner of Lee and Lomond Roads.

The clinic will be located in a plaza that already houses other medical facilities. Because of this, the Shaker Heights zoning code allows any medical facility to be built at this location. The zoning code, according to city Law Director Sheryl King Benford, determines what kind of establishments can be built in cities.

Approximately 85 percent of Shaker is residential, which places the commercial areas close to homes.

"This area [Lee and Lomond] already contains medical facilities, so this was the appropriate zone for the clinic," Benford said.

According to Phil Heintzelman, Director of Planning and Development, the clinic plans were reviewed for zoning compliance and other regulations. Despite the controversial nature of the clinic, all of the regulations were met and the plans proceeded to the building department. The clinic will be built by a locally certified contractor.

Student opinions about this clinic vary, as do opinions about abortion nationwide.

"Personally, I don't think having one here is a bad idea. I really don't think that it is anybody's business, either," sophomore Chelsea Whitman-Rush said.

"In a way, I think it's a good idea. There's so much teen pregnancy now that having a clinic might help some teens," said sophomore Autumn Ousley, who added that her personal opinion differed. "Based on my feelings about abortion . . . You should only get an abortion if it's your only way out, and I think that a lot of teens use it as protection so they can believe that they're having safe sex."

Concerned residents have already started calling City Hall and other government offices to express their feelings.

"We've gotten calls from people who don't believe in abortion, people who believe that it should be allowed, and people who want the city to put some sort of safeguard in place," Benford said.

The city is addressing the issue of protection for both the residents and the people using the facility, according to Benford. The police will be working closely with the clinic, and the city has put a no-trespassing law in place. However, demonstrators and protesters, as long as they stay off of the clinic's property, will be allowed.

"I think it should operate very smoothly," said Benford, who added that the police chief will be working hand in hand with any potential protesters.

However, some students have more qualms than Benford.

"I think it [the clinic] should go in a more commercial area," junior Malcolm Trier said. "It doesn't make the neighborhood look good at all. It's just not appropriate."

"I think there will be controversy," senior David Waldman said. "After all, there was a huge uproar over McDonald's, and that was just a restaurant."

Waldman was alluding to community resistance that arose last spring after rumors had McDonald's coming to Shaker.

Freshman Michael Bass supports the decision to build the clinic.

"I don't think that it's anybody's business but the woman's," Bass said. "I think the clinic is a good idea, though, so that it's available to women who want to use it."

"I think that it would provide a useful service to the community," senior Greg Burton said.

Economics students compete in Fed Challenge

news BRIEFS

Shaker economics students participated in one of the country's most exclusive contests, and a winning effort could mean thousands of scholarship dollars.

The Fed Challenge is a national economics competition sponsored by participating Federal Reserve Banks and the *New York Times*, held this year on March 22. High school students work to develop their own economic policy for the United States.

Eleven teams from the greater Cleveland area, including two from Shaker, participated in the preliminary round, held in Cleveland. This was Shaker's first year competing. Participants included Devony Jackson, Michael Grossman, Tom DiFransico, Allison Artman, Alan Murphy, Seth Chokel, Ben Madorsky, Candace Hamilton and Melissa Koch.

The competition offers some lucrative rewards. Winners will be announced today.

"Winners of the national title will bring home a $10,000 scholarship per student and a $40,000 grant for the school," said economics teacher Diana Jones, who advises the competing teams.

Megan Kortemeyer

History comes alive at regional competition

A national competition that has garnered Shaker many awards throughout the years is taking place once again.

The National History Day competition will begin March 27 with regional competition at Case Western Reserve University.

Shaker students whose projects have been selected for submission will participate in the district competition first. They then have the opportunity to progress to state or even national competition, held in College Park, Maryland.

"I think this competition is a really good experience and I'm glad that I decided to participate, even though it is a lot of hard work," junior Erin Roberson said.

The theme for this year's contest was Science, Technology, and Invention in History.

Megan Kortemeyer

JCWA to Big Apple, at nationals for first time

Junior Council of World Affairs members have high hopes for recent competition.

Students prepared for national competition at the United Nations in New York City March 23-27. Eighteen student delegates signed up to attend for the first time in Shaker history.

Delegates from schools across the country represented various nations and engaged in debate designed to solve world health, environmental and political problems.

"Hopefully we will have a strong showing for Shaker and we'll represent the school well," first-year adviser Daniel Harris said.

Megan Kortemeyer

Murphy, Quarles triumph in qualifying competitions

The speech and debate team participated in the state tournament March 4-7 in Toledo, and two members are heading to national competition. In addition to participating in the state tournament, senior Alan Murphy won a debate held March 12 at the City Club in downtown Cleveland. Senior Josiah Quarles will compete nationally in original oratory.

Shaker students who competed at the state competition were Melissa Currivan, Kira Ribar and Murphy for Lincoln-Douglas debate; Quarles for oratorical interpretation; Dashi Singham and Meghan Dubyak for two-person policy debate; Josh Lavin and Alex Cole for duo interpretation; Najah Farley for prose and poetry and Ankita Singh for foreign extemporaneous. Lavin and Cole were quarter-finalists and Quarles was a semifinalist.

"I had a good time when I was there," Currivan said.

Megan Kortemeyer

With gym demolition comes headaches

• Construction breaks ground, causes parking problems, classroom relocations

By Beth Dolinsky
Copy Editor

Aaron Viny/**The Shakerite**

The construction that began in early March has torn apart the parking lot, caused disturbances in class and has relocated some classes. Until next November, students and teachers will have to deal with distractions caused by the work.

Aaron Viny/**The Shakerite**

The demolition of the north gym, which began March 1, has impacted parking and music rehearsal for both staff and students.

Because the gym demolition includes the choir and social rooms, gym classes, orchestra, band, choir and the senior lounge were all relocated. Orchestra and choir classes now rehearse in the band room, symphonic band rehearses in the large auditorium and south gym, and the egress has been converted into the senior lounge.

Some students said that the relocation of activities has created problems.

"There isn't enough room [in the band room]," sophomore orchestra member Lauren Cherry said.

Sophomore wind ensemble member Chris Donat agreed.

"There's a mess in the room where we usually practice," he said. "It's a pain to get into our lockers."

The symphonic band moved rehearsals to the large auditorium, and more recently moved rehearsals to the gym. According to director Tom Deep, the band's setup on the auditorium stage was not perfect, but satisfactory. "We spread all the way to the back [of the stage], down the front and we squeezed off to the sides," he said.

"It's a problem here, because the woodwinds can't hear the brass and the brass can't hear the woodwinds," senior Quiana Smith said.

Others said the inconvenience was minimal.

"I don't really think it's inconvenient for chamber orchestra," junior Marc Djokic said. "The move only took one day."

Still others were more interested in the future situation of these groups than the current problems.

"It's important for the musical departments to share, but it will be nice to have our own space again some day," senior choir member Dan Deming said.

"This will be great for us in the long run because we will have a brand new facility," Deep said.

The demolition of the gym is also affecting parking at and around the high school. According to Carlton Moody, director of business and administration for the school district, construction will temporarily take away 50 parking spots from the north parking lot.

"When we built the new drive in front we gained 59 spots, so we're really nine spaces ahead of where we were last year," Moody said.

"Also, outside of the auditorium, seven or eight new spots have been gained." These new spots are in a former loading zone behind the driveway to the front parking lot.

A bulletin sent to all faculty and staff advised them to use the high school's parking lots and the administration building lot during construction. Also, staff members were encouraged to carpool to lessen congestion.

In order to make parking in the morning easier, sophomore Joe Mallin suggested creating more spaces.

"They should open the side streets and get rid of the no parking signs," he said.

Social studies teacher Rhona Pessel agreed that there needs to be another system for parking.

"In light of the fact that we're losing spaces, they should assign parking spaces for teachers," Pessel said. "That way, you have your spot and can come and go during the day without worrying about parking."

However, according to Moody the situation will get easier.

"It will be tight for a while, but we will be able to handle it," he said. Moody also mentioned that the parking situation will become easier after seniors go on project May 10.

All construction workers will be directed to the Onaway school parking lot for the duration of construction.

"It will be inconvenient, but worth it," Moody said. A mid-November completion date is expected.

Sankofa performs at Shaw, invitations absent in district

By Karen Jenks
Staff Reporter

With the close of Black History Month, *Sankofa* performers were ready to close up shop. Then they got a call from Shaw High School, inviting them to perform for select classes March 16. That was when students started to wonder why there had been no call from any of the other Shaker schools.

Despite interest in the high school's performances outside of the Shaker school district, interest within the district was not evident. However, both middle school principal Neil Glazer and *Sankofa* adviser Charlie Morgan expressed the wish that the group had performed at the middle school.

"No one called us from the middle school, but no, we didn't call them to see if they wanted us to come," said Morgan, a high school science teacher.

While no specific actions were taken to arrange a *Sankofa* performance at the middle school, the general consensus is that more interaction between the high school and other schools is desirable, though no one seems to know why so little interaction takes place.

"It's helpful to our students," said Glazer, who has been principal at the middle school for five years. "It gives them a better understanding of what's going on in the district. I would like to see more of the high school productions here, but [the high school] would have to call to let me know that there's something going on."

"I haven't really had any experience with the high school in the middle school," eighth grader Will Benish said. "But I think it'd be fun if they came over here."

"I think it'd be good to have the high school [here]," eighth grader Will Bostwick said. "It would get middle school students interested in acting for the high school."

Freshman Phoebe Lee agreed.

"When I was in eighth grade we never saw any performances from the high school. I think it's important for young kids to see what they can get involved in," she said.

After the December performance of *Pirates of Penzance,* the middle school chorus classes were invited to the high school for an abridged version of the musical. This is an annual matinee performance that the high school puts on for its middle school compatriots. However, the students who are not already involved in musical activities at the middle school are not exposed to the performance.

The high school orchestra, band and chorus perform in the middle school auditorium for their spring and fall concerts, but there is no specific performance arranged for the middle school students.

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THE PRINCETON REVIEW

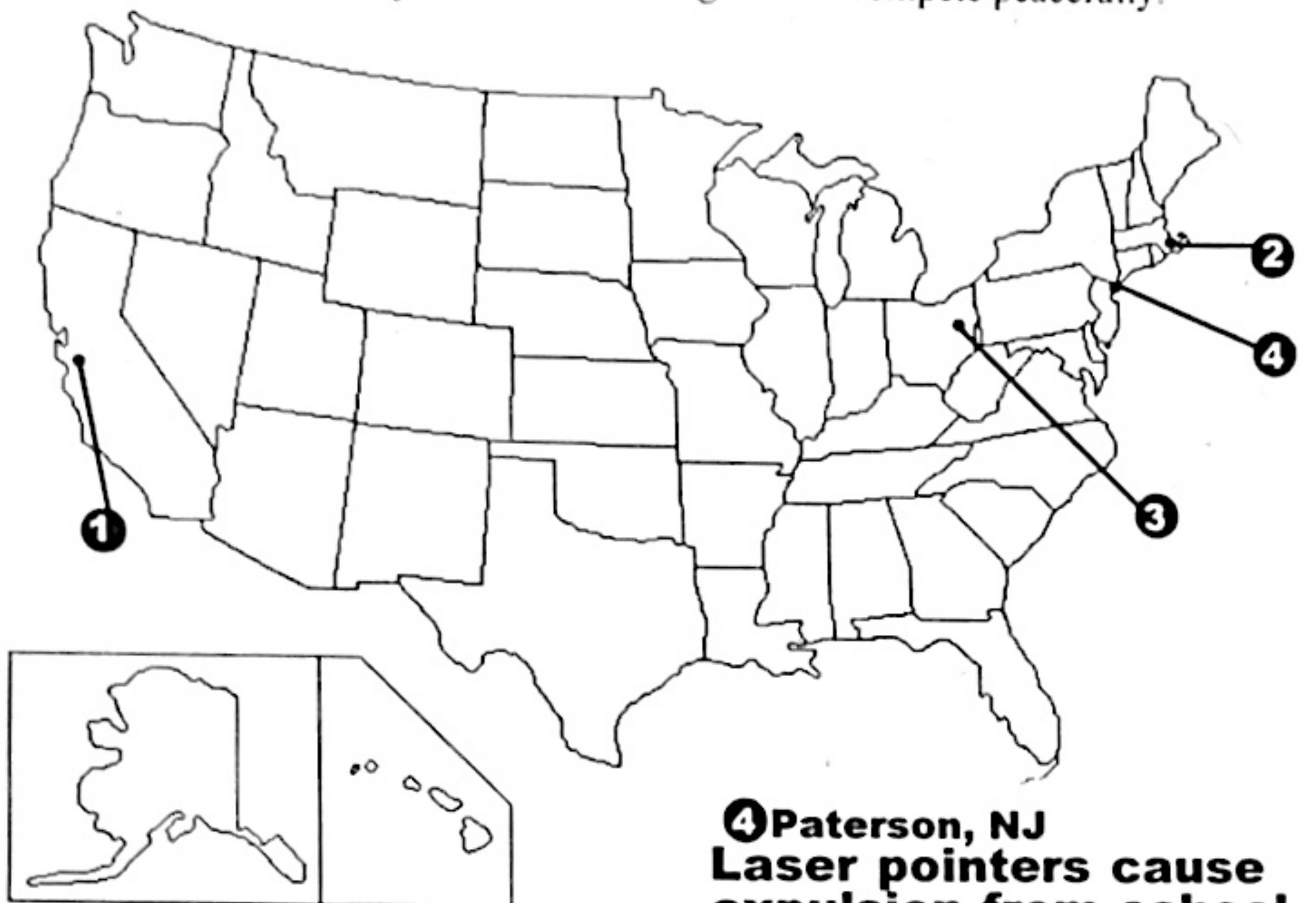
News in the nation

① Morgan Hill, CA
New club celebrates human differences

Raising awareness and encouraging equality is the goal of the Skittles Club at Live Oak High School. The club includes people of all races and plans to mentor and tutor in other area schools, according to the LOHS *Oak Leaf*.

② Fall River, MA
B-ball tourney brings youth, police together

The *Durfee Hilltop* reports that a pick-up basketball tournament brought groups of all ages and backgrounds together at B.M.C. Durfee High School. The tourney drew various areas of the city together to compete peacefully.



③ Bedford, OH
GPA minimum rule sidelines hoop star

Junior Kamil Wilson, rated one of the nation's top basketball players, was dropped from the Bedford High School team after failing to maintain a 1.5 minimum grade point average in keeping with school policy, according to *The Plain Dealer*.

④ Paterson, NJ
Laser pointers cause expulsion from school

The Torch reports that if kids under 16 are caught with a laser pointer at J.F.K. High School, they can face heavy consequences from their school. The pointers have been cited for causing disturbances at school and possible physical danger by severely burning the retina, causing loss of eyesight.

Compiled by Jenny Heisler and Megan Kortemeyer

Policy change aids juveniles in trouble

• New procedure gives first-time offenders second chance with opportunity to stay in Shaker, out of Juvenile Court

By Jon Heller
Staff Reporter

A new Shaker Heights policy regarding misdemeanor offenses by juveniles will prevent some young offenders from landing in Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.

The new policy offers a bypass procedure that gives the adolescent a second chance before a complaint is officially filed. Previously, all juveniles accused of a crime, even less serious offenses, would be referred to the Juvenile Court in downtown Cleveland after a detective from the Shaker Heights Police Department prepared a short report. There the case would be handled as a delinquency or an unruly juvenile charge and would follow normal juvenile court procedures. Possible outcomes included probation, community service, counseling, or commitment to a youth facility similar to a prison.

Under the new bypass procedure, offenders would not go directly to the downtown Juvenile Court system to face a prosecutor and judge.

"The concept of this bypass system is to keep children who commit misdemeanor crimes and less serious offenses in the community as opposed to the Juvenile Court system downtown," said Steven Wolkin, a Cleveland attorney who practices extensively in Juvenile Court and is recognized as an expert in the field.

Instead, juveniles accused of less serious crimes would remain in Shaker Heights and meet with their parents and a volunteer magistrate (a magistrate has authority similar to a judge, but is appointed to the job rather than elected). During this meeting, the magistrate would discuss the crime in question and review possible ways to deal with the matter, including consequences such as community service and others less severe than prison.

"The best part is that there is still a responsibility put on the minor when they go through the bypass procedure," Wolkin said. "The sheer volume of less serious cases downtown can't properly demonstrate to the offender the seriousness of his crime."

Another benefit of the new policy is that it requires that a community deal with the accused minor instead of simply sending him or her downtown, according to Wolkin. Other communities that have previously adopted the bypass system include Lakewood and Cleveland Heights.

"This system forces the community to police itself and therefore pay more attention to crime and maybe prevent similar crimes like it from happening in the future," Wolkin said.

However, Wolkin also noted potential weaknesses of the policy. The unpaid magistrates are not required to have the same background or continuing legal education in law as a judge would. They may not have the necessary experience and education to appropriately handle the cases. Also, magistrates' immunity is not clearly defined. Judges are fully protected by immunity and thus cannot be sued for performing their duties. This immunity rule may not fully apply to magistrates, perhaps leaving them open to lawsuits.

> ***"This system forces the community to police itself, and therefore pay more attention to crime and maybe prevent similar crimes like it from happening in the future."***
>
> **STEVEN WOLKIN**
> Cleveland attorney

HOOPS
FROM PAGE 1

In a respectful gesture following the death of freshman Penny Chang, the Raiders donned black wristbands in tribute as they took the hardwood against Shaw.

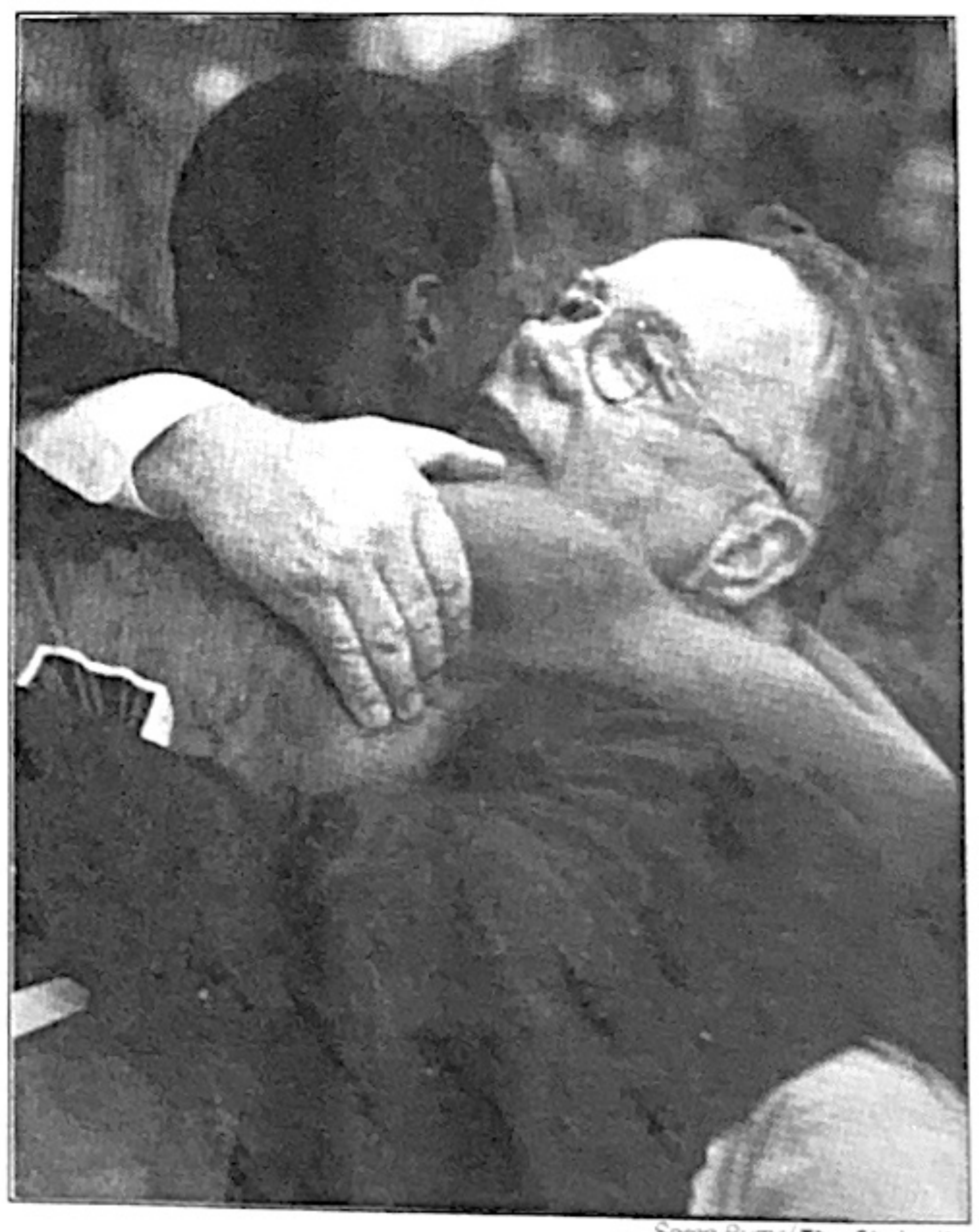
Playing motivated basketball, the Raiders swatted the Cardinals, cashing in on their highest victory margin of the tournament in the 94-45 victory.

Leading the Raider assault was senior center Michael Tucker, who racked up a double-double with 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Williams and senior guard Jon Higgins each contributed 16 points to the Raider victory.

The Raiders' final roadblock to the state final four was unranked and unseeded Youngstown-Rayen. With their offense not connecting on all cylinders, the Raiders relied on their cat-quick, stifling defense to stunt the talented Rayen attack.

By incorporating unpenetrable zone and man-to-man defenses, the Raiders were able to keep the Tiger's offense at bay and pulled out a satisfying 59-36 victory, to capture the regional championship.


Soren Burns/ The Shakerite

Sophomore Sidney Williams shares a congratulatory hug with Head Coach Bob Wonson after winning the regional final game.

After the win, which advanced the Raiders farther than any basketball team has gone in school history, emotions ran high.

"When we beat Youngstown, I knew we were going down state, and it was the best feeling in the world," Sidney Williams said.

The Raiders will tip-off at 6:15 Friday night against the East Liverpool Potters in Ohio State's sparkling new basketball facility at the Shottenstein Center in Columbus.

Coach Wonson expects a festive venue for his team's championship run.

"Oh, it will be exciting," Wonson said. "It will be a great atmosphere down there in front of 18,000 screaming people."

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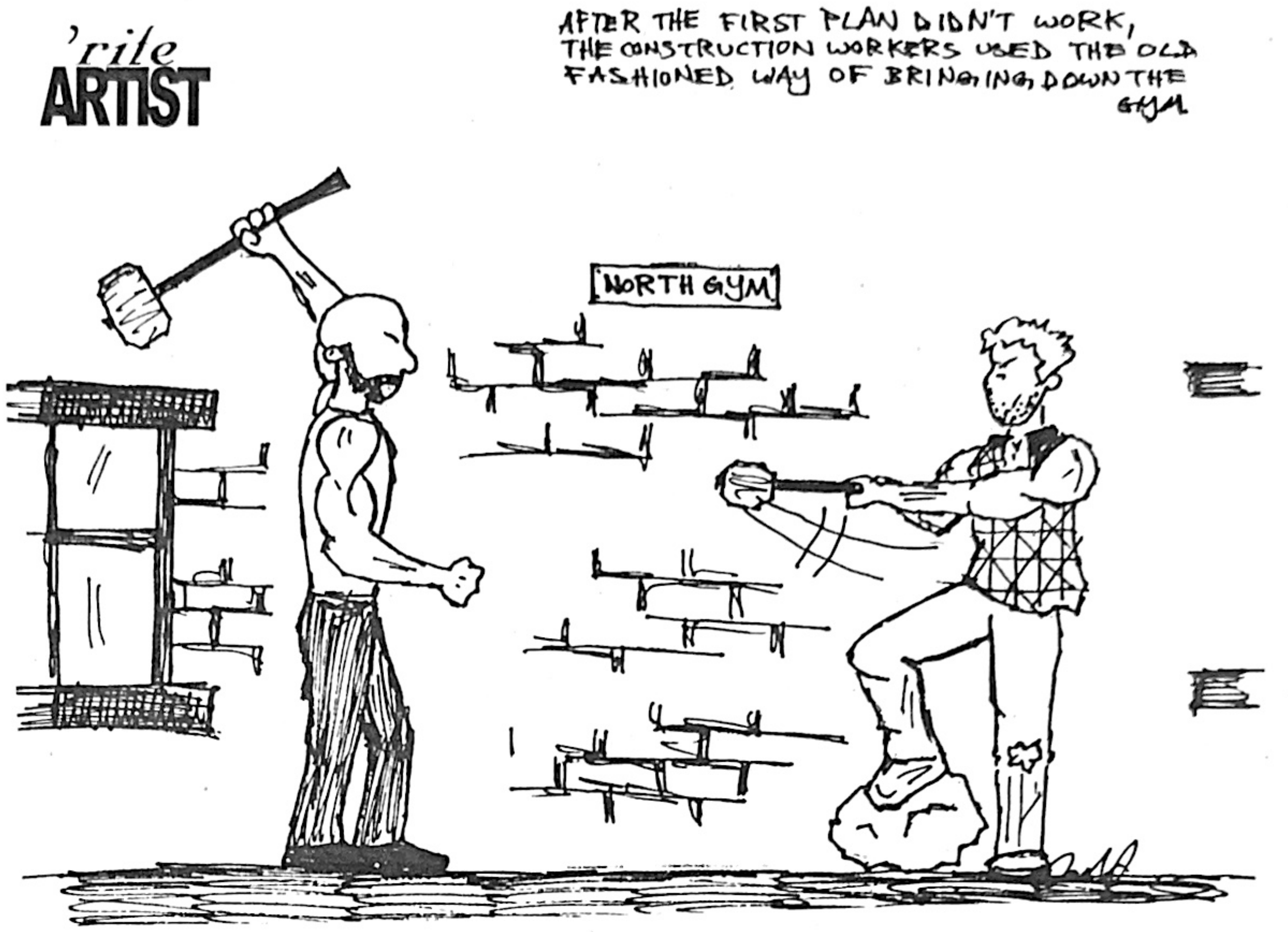
'rile ARTIST


AFTER THE FIRST PLAN DIDN'T WORK, THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS USED THE OLD FASHIONED WAY OF BRINGING DOWN THE GYM
NORTH GYM

Dan Moody/The Shakerite

Ignorant voters dictate future

'rile IDEA

As your mother may have taught you, with rights comes responsibility, and with freedom comes trust.

As a citizen of the most powerful democratic nation in the world, we have many basic rights that each individual exercises every day. The majority of us, however, fail to exercise the responsibilities that come with those rights.

Long ago, Thomas Jefferson and others who founded our Constitution documented what rights and responsibilities each American is guaranteed. Voting rights were originally granted to white males and later, with much struggle, all citizens, 18 years or older, were granted suffrage. We will all be able to vote soon, but do we deserve that right?

Only 45 percent of Americans ages 18 to 49 could name the speaker of the house compared to the 73 percent who could name the star of *Strip Tease*, yet Demi Moore has no bearing on what is happening in our nation's capital. Knowledge of what is happening in our country is minimal among voters, yet voting is what shapes our immediate future.

If we don't even know who the speaker of the house is, how can we properly exercise the right to vote and not punch ballots in ignorance? This problem stems from lack of education about politics and news in students' households. Few students choose to watch the news instead of *Sportscenter* or *The Simpsons*.

The problem extends to school as well. The curriculum does not allow for many discussions about current events, with exception of the requirement of one semester of Government class during senior year. Even through senior year, when voting becomes a reality for the new adults of our nation, the teachings of political news are minimal and insufficient. Seniors are urged to take at least five classes their senior year; one of the required classes should be a current events class.

On the verge of voting age, it's impossible to emerge from the darkness of political ignorance in one semester of class. Ideally, Government class educates and captivates first-time voters so that they make good decisions in the booth.

However, in many cases, postponing political education until the final days of high school, when senior attention wanes, reduces its success. Students need to start learning about the workings of government long before their first vote. This doesn't mean only in eighth grade when we take U.S. History for the first time and learn about the Constitution. It means it should be an ongoing process beginning at a young age at home and continuing through school and into adulthood. Less than 50 percent of eligible voters actually vote, and the chance that those voters are responsibly casting ballots is slim. It is a larger slap in America's face to vote ignorantly than not to vote at all.

To address this lack of preparation among America's young voters, parents need to see to it that their kids stay up to date on all current issues, not just presidential sex scandals, and the school district needs to set aside portions of time in the curriculum for discussion of political news throughout the grades. Only then will an informed electorate guarantee a secure future.

the TOP 10

Weirdest things your peers report having seen in the hallways

10. A teacher fell down while a kid got hit in the head by a door at the same time.

9. During an argument, someone called another person their "red water sheep."

8. A kid was walking down the halls yelling that he refused to wear a protective cup unless he was playing hockey.

7. Two kids were trading Pokemon in the hallway.

6. I saw a big Pillsbury Dough Boy walking in the hallway.

5. A person had their arms out, making airplane noises.

4. A kid got on all fours and started barking like a dog.

3. I saw a person's weave fall out on the floor and it looked like a hairy animal.

2. A sophomore did a front flip in the hallway and landed on his butt.

And the #1 weirdest thing seen in the hallways...

Two boys were fighting and their mothers were there. Their mothers started fighting soon thereafter.

Pearson critiques column

To the editors:

In response to the worst case scenario article [February 1999]:

This article addresses the peer pressure put on students, but what about the physical abuse suffered by the joint? You talk about "hitting the joint" without any regard for the well being of it. Your paper shows no regard for the emotions of joints. Many of my best friends are joints (although I would never smoke any of my friends), and they feel that this article is offensive and promotes violence against joints. And what's this about "throwing back" a beer? In a community made of many beers, you should show more concern for the holistic health of beers. *The Shakerite* still has work to do in order to be politically correct.

David Pearson, senior

P.S. On a serious note, the second to last paragraph makes male rapists look like victims. The only victims in a rape are females, and if a male gets an STD by overpowering a woman, as far as I'm concerned he deserves it.

SAFETY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Carrying the right to write referrals, break up fights, send trespassers away and escort perpetrators to 110, high school security lives around every corner.

Numerous questions have been raised about security guards' jobs. Some Shaker students are unsure about exactly what they are. We all know they yell at us to clear the halls and they're always around to break up a fight if one should occur. But is that all? Security also extends beyond the walls of the high school, in the form of police officers and other security measures. Video cameras have been placed throughout the city to make sure crime remains at a minimum.

The Shakerite went on to discover what the school thinks about security. We roamed the halls and the city to discover the quantity and quality of security. We considered if it is truly necessary.

shaker SPEAKS

There are security guards around every corner, in every hallway throughout the school day. Questions have been raised as to whether the security is necessary and what it actually accomplishes.

***The Shakerite* took these questions to the hallways to find out what the student body thinks.**

Maureen Moody
Grade: sophomore
Does security at Shaker make you feel safer?
"No. I would feel the same if they weren't here, and if they had weapons it would make me feel uneasy."

Howard Brown
Grade: junior
Would you feel safer if security guards had weapons?
"No. If there were people walking around with weapons it would make students nervous and maybe make them bring weapons, too."

Babette Wine
Grade: senior
Do security guards make you feel safer at school?
"Yes. It definitely helps to see an extra face in the hallway. It makes me feel safer."

Joel Jernberg-Briggs
Grade: senior
Is security at our school necessary?
"They call security if fights break out, but I don't think there really are any. I don't see a need for security."

Kelcey Jones
Grade: junior
What do you think the hallways would be like without security guards?
"Things would be different without security around here. It's so chaotic here, it would be worse without them."

Terrence Mann
Grade: sophomore
Would there be more fighting without security guards?
"With security guards it's easier to get caught so without them there would be more fighting. But you get ten days no matter what."

School security tips both sides of the scale

By Nate Auerbach
Staff Reporter

They're the men and women who carry Walkie Talkies, guard the halls and protect the school like it's their job. Well, it is actually, but is that job really necessary?

Security guards at Shaker were first hired prior to 1977 to assist teachers with hall duty, make sure students go to class on time, monitor trespassers and stop fights.

Could this school survive with the absence of security, or does its presence cause safety to exist at Shaker? A brilliant argument may be presented by both sides.

Nate Auerbach: First floor wing off of the main hallway, Friday, March 5: Two kids are fighting until English teacher Steven Fox steps in, invokes his pro-wrestling powers and single-handedly separates the hooligans. Where was security on that one? All they did was escort the students to 110, the unit principals' office.

Ate Nauerbach: Don't listen to this Nate dude. The security helped out Mr. Fox a great deal. They chased down the rascals so Fox could return to his educational duties. They're a tag team.

N.A.: If there are other faculty around doing the same thing security is intended to do, what is the need for security guards? There are teachers on hall duty in almost every corridor. The school system can use the $100,000 budgeted yearly for security in better ways.

A.N.: In the halls, the guards only stop students who seem to have problems. They work *with* the hall duty staff. Besides, no one else in the building is trained in areas such as gang investigations, juvenile procedures, handling drug investigations and self defense.

N.A.: Fine then. Chew on this. In the cafeteria, there is plenty of lunch staff, including the unit principals. They are usually the first ones to see fights or problems. It's not a matter of if they're strong enough to pry students off each other. The situation can be handled. It's not like any of the eight security guards are needed to escort kids to the already present unit principals.

A.N.: It's a precautionary measure. Something big could happen, like the food fight a few weeks ago. Security does get to the scene of the crime just as quickly as the others.

N.A.: That's not always true. Teachers who are breaking up a fight have to call security. This can't be done when you're in the midst of a crisis. Another reason security is unimportant is that one of their primary duties, keeping the halls clear, seems to be neglected.

Most students can walk the halls at any time during the day, with or without a pass. Security personnel are just extra bodies that contribute to overcrowded hallways. When the guards do say something to hall nomads, it is usually in the form of a social conversation.

A.N.: They don't see a reason to stop kids. Usually, they see that kids are headed to class. They stop repeat offenders and try to motivate them to go to class.

N.A.: Security guards say trespassers lurk around the high school every day. How, unless they possess some superhuman powers, is security able to identify these prowlers? They hardly ever ask for hall passes, and the sight of a much-hyped student ID is now nearly a myth. Unless someone wears a sign that says "Hey I'm a trespasser," how could security have a clue?

A.N.: Give them more credit than that. They know the school and its students. They can identify trespassers by dress, if they're carrying a backpack, and if they're familiar with the building. Most of the other cities' prowlers see the security and remain off campus. All that is required is to keep them off of school property.

N.A.: What about fights? Shaker has lately been a very loving atmosphere. Aside from the recent tiff, the last one was just before winter break when a girl whipped out her belt during eighth period lunch in an attempt to beat her opponent until surprise, the unit principals were the first to the scene.

A.N.: You got your thoughts all wrong, kid. Fights at Shaker are rare precisely *because* of the security. Most of the time individuals are able to restrain themselves, knowing they will quickly be grabbed by a guard and severely punished upon their arrival at 110.

N.A.'s final thought: It can be seen by the naked eye that the security presence doesn't have much effect on the school. We're getting along fine without being stopped for passes. So Shaker has no need for security. I say stick a fork in it, it's done.

A.N.'s final thought: Security guards at Shaker stop problems before they start. Their presence creates an awareness, fear of getting caught and a safe environment for all. Mike Klima, head of security, has received pleasant feedback from students, while faculty and parents are content as well. The fact that questions arise about the necessity of security is evidence that they do their job so well.

Cameras keep tabs on unwitting subjects

By Peter Morgenstern-Clarren
Guest 'riter

I've been becoming increasingly paranoid recently. Unfortunately, my paranoia is based on fact rather than fantasy. There are five working cameras at the high school monitoring the school's surroundings. Four new cameras are to be installed.

There is a 360 degree wide-range camera by the RTA tracks at the corner of Van Aken and Farnsleigh, near Van Aken Shopping Center. There is a camera on the corner of Chagrin and Lee, by Shaker Towne Centre.

According to the Shaker Heights Police Chief Walter Ugrinic, there are proposals to put up cameras at the main library and in certain locations in the Lomond, Ludlow and Sussex areas. Three of the school cameras view the parking lots. The other two unnecessarily view the Aldersyde Drive exit of the school.

People eating lunch and talking to friends are in plain view. The Aldersyde exit is monitored to prevent Cleveland Heights students from coming to the school and starting fights.

To some degree it is clear that the citizens of Shaker want the monitors. At the high school, some teachers feel more secure about the safety of their cars. Some don't see the benefit. Librarian Kelly Jons says he feels perfectly safe about his car, cameras or no cameras.

The citizens of Shaker seem content with the cameras at the RTA tracks and Shaker Towne Centre. The police department has not received a single negative comment about them. On the other hand, the vast majority of the people with whom I have spoken didn't even know there were cameras in those locations.

There were no public forums to discuss whether or not cameras should be put up at the RTA and the shopping center. The idea originated at the community Blockwatch meetings, went to the Council Safety Committee and was then passed by the City Council for funding. Much of the funding was provided for by Cablevision, which had decided to give the city a grant to help law enforcement. Basically, people are being watched without their knowledge.

Admittedly, crime in Shaker Heights has fallen drastically. According to Chief Ugrinic, the cameras have been one tool that has helped reduce city crime by 50 percent. Both Police Commander Dale and Chief Ugrinic say that while criminals at one point either attempted to steal or stole an astounding 500 to 600 cars yearly, the number is now 74.

Clearly the cameras have helped to reduce crime. They are useful. But how many more does the city need? How many more does the high school need? Perhaps the Aldersyde cameras were not needed in the first place.

Public safety is a necessity. However, I refuse to be watched when I leave my house, when I blow my nose, when I tie my shoelaces, when I hang out with friends, when I do cartwheels in the middle of the street, or when I read a book by the lake. That is my business and this is my life. I have my property and I have my privacy. Let's be careful about keeping our constitutional privacy rights intact while effectively fighting crime.

Television 'journalists' don't deserve title

• Targeting Shaker for sensationalistic coverage reveals true motivation: ratings

By Anahid Thompson
Opinion co-editor

Welcome to the 10 o' clock news. We're here to report untimely stories blown completely out of proportion, so stay tuned because we'll have something about sex, murder and other stories that are sure to interest you.

Of late, local television news coverage of events concerning the high school can only be called inappropriate, unprofessional and unethical. From the arrests of two faculty, to the death of a substitute teacher and the murder of a freshman, television "news" coverage was unprincipled.

What are the objectives of the television news stations? To relay vital, substantiated information to the public based on the needs of an informed citizenry? No. Their goals are based on relaying rumors, misinformation, and irrelevancies that will draw more viewers and more discussion, ultimately raising television ratings and making more money.

When Penny Chang was killed, many reporters descended on the school, further disrupting the learning process, only to relay secondhand information from students who didn't know the victim and were ignorant of the situation.

From misstating ages to misrepresenting the nature of school assemblies to suggesting that Principal Jack Rumbaugh would retire in light of the tragedy, Cleveland TV news organizations were reckless in their haste to be first with the "facts."

They broadcast 60-second stories that were not newsworthy but were permanently injurious to two faculty as well as to the school and community.

Early reports alluded to previous police involvement with the victim and the accused. The vagueness of the reports led viewers to the mistaken belief the victim herself may have been guilty of wrongdoing. (Television journalists were not the only reporters swept up in the melodrama. *The Plain Dealer's* 60-point, two deck headline was bigger than its nameplate, and the five-photo essay, complete with a bloody crime scene, went beyond sensationalism.)

In February – the height of the television news sweeps month – when individual stations are evaluated based on viewership for the purpose of establishing advertising rates – all Cleveland stations abandoned traditional journalistic news values and ethics in favor of tabloid-style reporting.

They covered untimely events in a manner that can only be called yellow journalism. They broadcast 60-second stories that were not newsworthy but were permanently injurious to two faculty members as well as to the school and community.

Whether or not the teachers were arrested has absolutely no bearing on their ability to continue to be excellent educators. So why did the television news stations fabricate a scandal out of a non-issue? Ratings.

A few weeks later, the stations handled the meningitis-related death of a substitute teacher who was also a Shaker parent just as inappropriately as the other issues. They used a sad time to boost their ratings and raise fear about the dangers of the disease.

Reporters from local television stations accosted students in the hallways, demanding they speak out about their feelings on meningitis. One reporter asked, "Did you hear about the teacher who died of meningitis?" The student, unaware of the death, appeared confused and frightened. Other reporters asked students to help them find the deceased woman's son for an interview.

They should have approached me. While I found their alarmist tendencies disgusting, I would not have been afraid to ask why they were questioning me, a random student in the hallway who probably didn't know what actually happened.

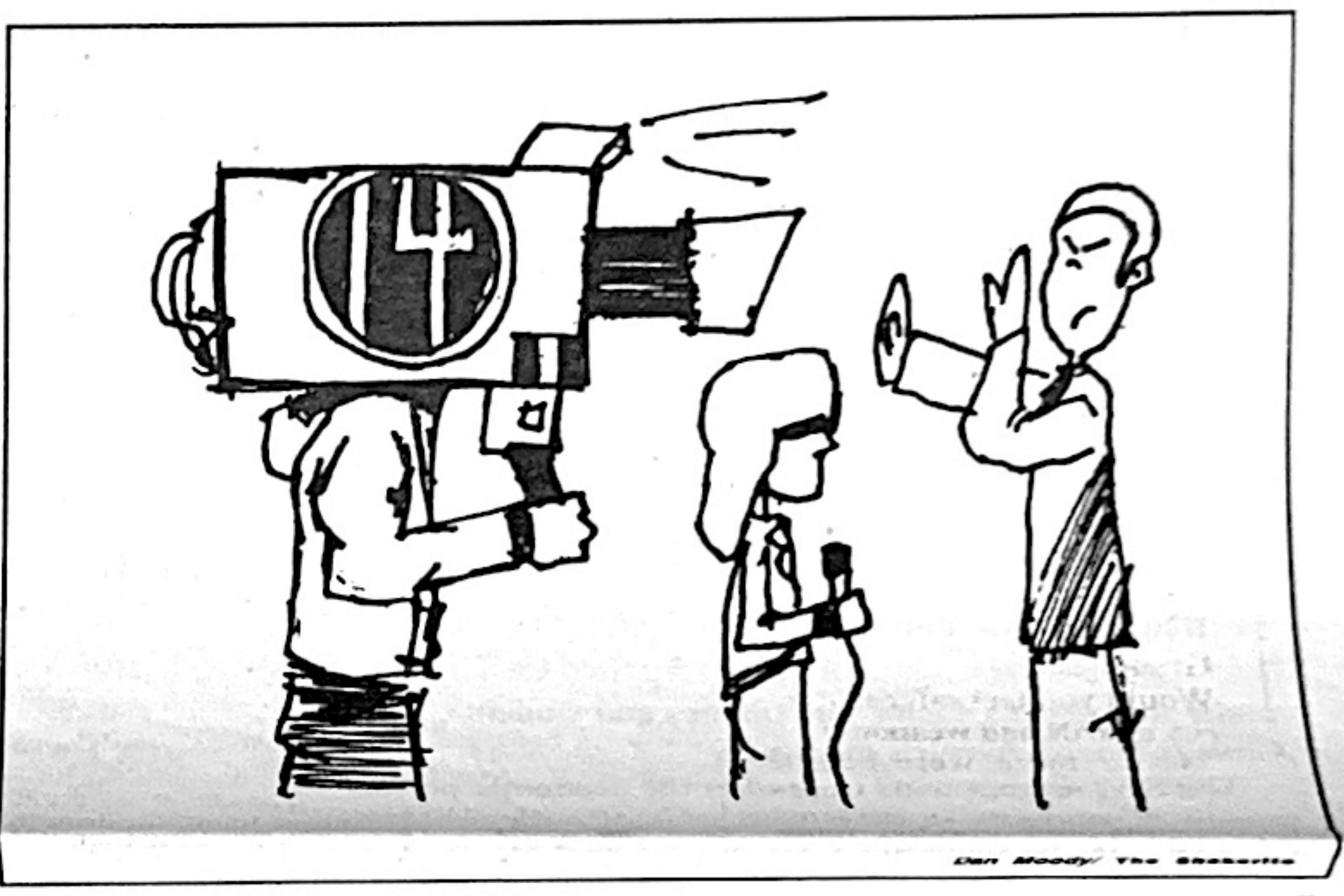
I am disillusioned with the television news industry because of reporters who employ yellow journalism to create scandals from minuscule issues.

This behavior is appalling, and I am ashamed, as a journalist, to be associated with these hurtful, unprincipled people who undermine the reputations of all members of the media.

Harmful effects from TV news practices reach far beyond Shaker, although our community has endured more than its share of damage lately. Television news sensationalizes many other events around the country, and this has been going on for many years.

The news directors might justify their actions by saying that they are catering to the public's demand and are covering things that they know the people want to see. However, ethical journalists make a distinction between what people want to see and what they need to know in order to live better lives.

While it's true that everyone should try not to fall victim to such rationalizations, it's also true that the media have an obligation not to pander to the lowest of human interests.



Dan Moody/ The Shakerite

The play's the thing, especially when diversity is the goal

• Talented actors abound, but many shy away from competing for roles if themes do not represent their cultures

By Najah Farley
Co-editor in chief

The arts in many ways have served as an equalizing factor in the lives of African Americans. The artists of the Harlem Renaissance and many other pioneers paved the way for black filmmakers, artists, writers and actors.

At the high school the situation is different. One thing I learned during the *Sankofa* production is that there is a lot of untapped talent in our school that will continue to go unused if we as a school do not remedy the situation.

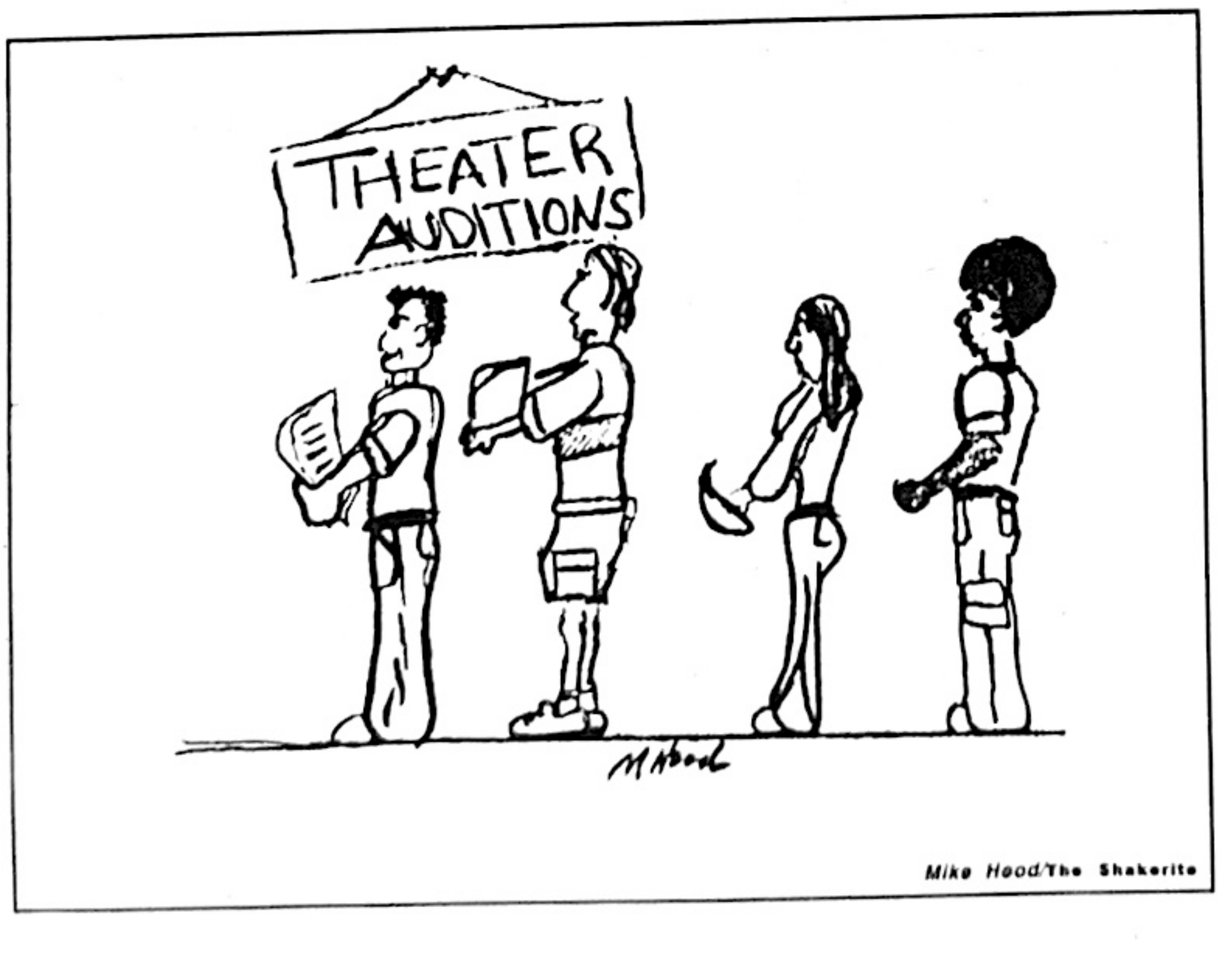
The theater arts department can begin this effort. Throughout the years I have enjoyed the school's theater productions, from *New Stages* to *Our Town* to *Guys and Dolls*. I have made it a point to try to attend theater events because they are always productions of quality.

Last year during *New Stages* I again enjoyed an excellent production. At the same time, I recognized that there was a profound difference in the audience and in the participants. Senior Traci Meister, an African-American student, included more diverse participants and attracted a more representative audience.

As I watched, I realized that this was a drastic departure from usual theater productions. Instead of including mostly Caucasian actors, there were African Americans involved in major parts as opposed to minuscule walk-ons.

I also noted that this had an effect on who auditioned for the play. According to Meister, this difference was also noted on the part of participants in *New Stages*. For the first time, I heard many of my classmates deciding to audition. Their main reason was the prospect of more parts to which African Americans could relate.

However, during my first three years of high school, the primary theater department productions and *New Stages* did not differ. Although all those performances were works of merit, plays written by African Americans, or even plays that are not exclusively about the experiences of Caucasian males were excluded.



Mike Hood/The Shakerite

Nearly all of the plays produced at Shaker since 1980 were written by Caucasian males. Many times plays that feature universal themes become exclusive when looked at in terms of situation and historical context. The lessons of *Our Town* may not be evident to African Americans, given that one of the substantial black actors in the production played a milk delivery man.

There are African-American students involved in the theater department, yet, they are few and far between. They are students who have enough courage to participate in plays whether they include African-American experiences or not. They are leaders and they deserve commendation, but there are many other budding actors and actresses who could enhance the theater department if they thought that there were opportunities available.

Also, as with any minority group, feelings of inferiority abound when there are not positive images within the group. As it is now, there are not many opportunities for minority actors to participate in roles specific to their experiences. Although many would say that a shortage of minority theater opportunities is the reality of theater, the most important thing to remember is that we are a high school that is currently ignoring the needs of the majority.

Many times plays that feature universal themes become exclusive when looked at in terms of situation and historical context.

There are schools that effectively produce theater appealing to multi-cultural audiences as well as including multi-cultural cast members. Shaw High School is a prominent example. The advisers of the theater program are Caucasian, but they still manage to appeal to their audiences with musicals such as *The Wiz* and *Grease*. Shaker is a diverse community and theater productions should reflect this diversity. The same productions do not need to continue in the same patterns that they have followed for more than15 years. It is time for a change.

There is no major outcry about the theater department selections because the work they do is high quality. Yet, as a school that prides itself on diversity, all organizations should look closely at how they can begin to bridge the gap and be more inclusive by producing more diverse plays.

SAT UNDER PRESSURE

Experts debate validity of SAT results

By Shaila Shah
Centerpiece Co-Editor

SAT tests usually find juniors and seniors stressed and fearful in March and May, two popular months for taking the exam.

Are the months of agonizing worry worth it? Do colleges scrutinize SAT scores more than anything else?

According to Dr. Monty Neil of Fair Test, a national organization advocating an end to abuses and misuses of standardized testing, colleges look at qualities other than SAT scores. Fair Test argues that the test is supposed to measure critical thinking, writing and problem solving, and that the SAT can't measure that.

However, The College Board, which sponsors the test (Educational Testing Service creates it) disputes Neil's analysis.

"The SAT scores and high school grades coincide with each other, so it does a good job of measuring reasoning skills," said Jeffrey Penn, a spokesperson for the College Board.

The SAT, conceived in 1926, consists of two parts — a math section that does not include advanced topics and a verbal section that does not require writing. Before the SAT was developed, students who applied to more than one college had to sit through entrance exams for each college they applied to. To make the process easier for colleges and students, the College Board invented the SAT.

The SAT is supposed to predict the academic performance of students in their first year of college. However, according to Penn, high school grades and SAT scores together can predict the students' first year in college more accurately.

> *"More than 280 colleges across the country now admit some or all of their applicants without regard to the SAT."*
>
> DR. MONTY NEIL
> Fair Test

According to Fair Test, even though men score better on the SAT, women outperform men in college during their first year of classes. Thus, the SAT under predicts women's performance while over predicting men's.

"Women generally do worse on the SAT, but their performance in school is an example of the misuse of the SAT," said Neil, who spoke at the Cleveland City Club in February.

Time plays a large role in SAT results. People who might score higher with more testing time won't score as well on the SATs because the test allows only 30 minutes for 25 or 30 questions. The College Board says that if someone had good grades in high school but does not score as high on the SAT as other people with similar GPAs, the college will focus on other factors beside the SAT.

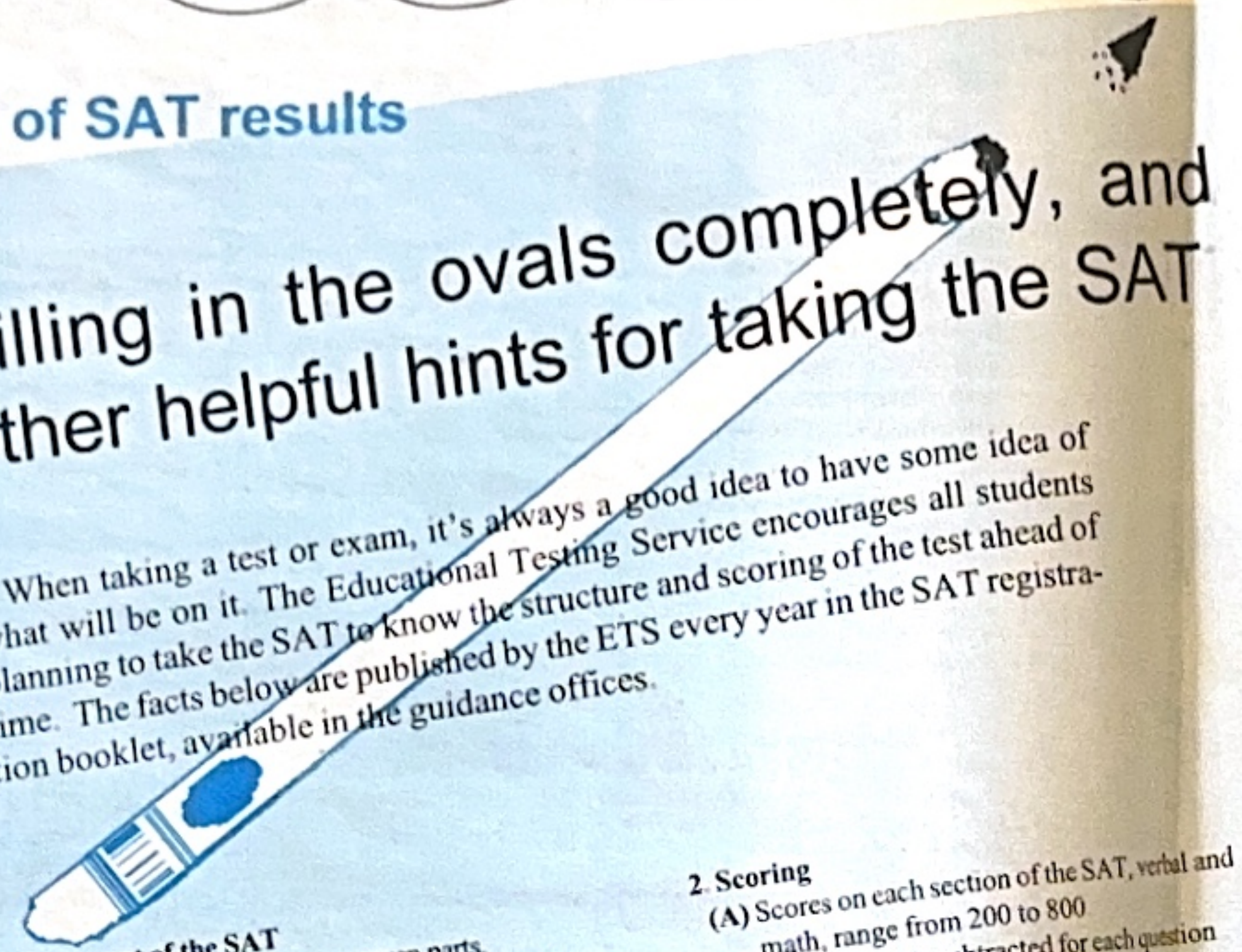
The College Board argues that the test creates a fair playing field for applicants and that the test helps admissions officers make final decisions between similar candidates. However, according to *The Case Against SAT* by James Crouse and Dale Trusheim, 90 percent of college admissions would be the same even without the SAT.

"When there are applicants applying from high schools that are not well known or local, admissions workers do not know whether the grading scale is fair, because grading scales vary throughout schools. The SAT helps to see whether the grade matches the score," Penn said.

Fair Test contradicts the idea of the SAT playing an essential role in admissions.

"Like Crouse and Trusheim said, 90 percent of admissions would be the same without the SAT. More than 280 colleges across the country now admit some or all of their applicants without regard to the SAT," Neil said.

Filling in the ovals completely, and other helpful hints for taking the SAT



When taking a test or exam, it's always a good idea to have some idea of what will be on it. The Educational Testing Service encourages all students planning to take the SAT to know the structure and scoring of the test ahead of time. The facts below are published by the ETS every year in the SAT registration booklet, available in the guidance offices.

1. Format of the SAT
- **(A)** The SAT is divided into seven parts.
- **(B)** There are three verbal sections, three math sections, and one equating section that is not scored in which new questions are tried out.
- **(C)** There is no way to determine which section is the equating section, so it's not a good idea to skip any section on a hunch.
- **(D)** There are five 30-minute sections and two 15-minute sections on the test.

2. Scoring
- **(A)** Scores on each section of the SAT, verbal and math, range from 200 to 800.
- **(B)** 1/4 of a point is subtracted for each question answered wrong.
- **(C)** One doesn't have to answer every question right to get a perfect score.
- **(D)** All questions are worth the same amount of points – easy questions are worth as much as hard ones.

3. Guessing
- **(A)** Always guess if one answer can be eliminated.
- **(B)** Eliminating even one answer raises the chance of guessing correctly.
- **(C)** The penalty for guessing is only a fourth of a point and will not severely affect the overall score.
- **(D)** Guessing is an advantage on student-response math questions – there is no penalty for wrong answers on this section.

4. Time Management
- **(A)** Be aware of the time left in each section.
- **(B)** Don't spend too much time on any one question. Answering quick, easy ones is just as helpful as answering a few tough ones.
- **(C)** Know the directions for each section before taking the test. Time not used reading directions can be used answering questions.
- **(D)** If there is any extra time, go back and check the answers.

Each section of the SAT, verbal and math, is divided into a few different types of questions. The verbal section consists of analogies, sentence completions and reading comprehension questions. The math section is a composite of multiple choice, quantitative comparison and free response questions. Each type of question has a different format and set of instructions.

Analogies are word associations. Given a pair of words, students must identify the relationship and find that same relationship between words in the answer choices.

Sentence completions are as straight-forward as the title suggests. Students are given a sentence with one or two blanks and must find the most appropriate words among the answer choices.

For the **reading comprehension** section, questions are asked in relation to a given passage. Generally, questions in this section are about the tone of the passage, the main points of paragraphs and examples and definitions of words and phrases in context.

In the **multiple choice** section of the math portion, a question is given and students must choose the correct answer out of five possibilities. Any kind of calculator can be used on any of the math sections, provided it does not have a keyboard like a computer.

Quantitative comparison questions ask students to compare two quantities and decide which is larger. There is also the option that both are the same or that the answer cannot be determined with the given information.

The **free response** math questions are the same types of questions as the ones in the multiple choice section, except that students create their own answers instead of choosing one.

Does coaching help or hinder?

By Lisa Samols
Centerpeice Co-editor

The typical selective college bases its preliminary screening on two numbers: the applicants' GPAs and SAT scores. For this reason, typical high school students concerned with being admitted to college hope to improve their SAT scores as much as possible. For many students, improvement requires coaching.

Students can be coached for the SAT by private tutors or in classroom courses, such as the Princeton Review or Kaplan.

Although The College Board maintains that the test is intended to be an objective measure of students' academic skills and not their knowledge, many tutors insist that students can prepare for the test and thus improve scores.

"It is supposed to measure how well you use what you know," said James Calland, a private tutor who prepares students for the math portion of the SAT. "It is a reasoning test, and tutoring is more education toward that end," he said.

Calland works in the Shaker Heights High School tutoring center on weekdays to supplement students' math instruction and has been tutoring Shaker students for the SAT for three years.

The results of tutoring and SAT preparation classes vary for different students. Some students say that there is no way to prepare for the SAT, and that classes and tutoring don't make a difference, or are actually detrimental to their scores.

"Since I was promised my score would go up 100 points, I took a review course," junior Jenny Hill said. "But my score went down 100 points. The more I learned, the more my score went down."

The College Board, agreeing with this assertion, recently conducted two studies of the effects of coaching on SAT scores. Researchers took into account the race, gender, grade, prior test scores and coaching method of the students surveyed in their study. The study claimed that coaching produces limited results.

Of 4,200 students surveyed, 12 percent were coached in or out of school. Of that 12 percent, 10 percent experienced 100-point or more increases in their verbal or and math scores, as compared to eight percent of uncoached students. The College Board found that coached students were more likely to see large increases in their scores than uncoached students, but the actual occurrance of large increases was small.

"By comparing actual SAT scores of similar coached and uncoached students before and after a retest, it shows that coaching is not a magic key to success on the SAT," said Wayne Camara, senior research scientist and executive director of research and development for The College Board.

However, others claim that the average student can be helped by coaching and classes.

"If you did nothing more than practice, you could improve your score," Calland said. "I think some guidance is always better than none."

Some students attribute the increase in their SAT scores to the extra help they got.

"Just being able to do the test over and over again helps you know the types of questions that appear," said junior Jeremy Hsu, whose PSAT score increased by 200 points between his sophomore and junior years. Hsu credits his private tutor with the large increase in his score.

"The tutor helps you see how to do the questions that appear again, and recommends good supplementary material, like a book for common SAT vocab," Hsu said.

Aaron Viny/ Shakerite

Diona Shaw teaches a Princeton Review course for students seeking to raise their SAT scores.

SAT not real measure of success

By Marie Frisof
Guest 'riter

I virulently oppose SAT tests. Not because I scored poorly, as is often assumed about people who think standardized testing is a colossal waste of time and money. I missed only two questions on the SAT, and chances are that my ridiculously high score helped me get into Columbia. No, I despise SAT tests for other, better reasons.

Shortly after I took the SAT, I began to receive unsolicited letters from colleges and universities, most of which read:

"Dear Marie, We can tell from your SAT results that you are a studious, well-rounded, well-read, thoughtful person. Furthermore, we can tell that our college would be perfect for you because we have lots of other students who scored equally well on the SATs and therefore must also be studious, well-rounded, well-read, thoughtful people."

> *The only legitimate reason to put high school students through the expense and worry of SATs would be if testing were an unbiased and accurate way to predict potential achievement.*

Actually, the only thing one can reasonably deduce from high SAT scores is that the student in question had the time and/or the money to waste preparing for the test, and in my case, even this is not true. That the College Board purports to offer universities an unbiased glimpse into the probable academic future of their applicants is as improbable as the assumption that I was studious during high school: I wasn't.

As a counter-example to the much-touted fiction of predictive value, I now offer the tale of a good friend — I'll call him Dan — who went to an East Cleveland public school, who grew up about 10 minutes from my house in Shaker, and whom I first met last year in my dorm at Columbia.

Dan did well in high school. He worked much harder than I did, participated in more extra-curricular activities than I did, took the one AP class offered at his school, and scored maybe 500 points lower on his SATs than I did. When he applied to Columbia, the admissions office took into consideration the relative scarcity of resources at his school, noted his grades, initiative and skills, paid attention to his interview, and admitted him.

Was this a mistake on Columbia's part? Did admissions ignore the results of the great equalizer, the Standardized Test, to the university's detriment? Well, no. They ignored the results of the SAT to the university's advantage. Dan is unquestionably a worthwhile addition to the school; he is studious, well-rounded, well-read and thoughtful. And how well did the SATs predict his quantitative academic success? At Columbia our academic records have been relatively similar; that is, we're both doing well and making our parents proud.

Even though SATs ostensibly can't be taught, Dan would probably have done better had he been able to take one of those prep classes in which students are taught never to trust their first instincts, not to choose the answers they think are right, how to psych out the test-writers, and in which critical thinking and careful analysis are tactfully not mentioned. Unfortunately, thinking and analyzing just don't improve test scores.

The only legitimate reason to put high school students through the expense and worry of SATs would be if testing were an unbiased and accurate way to predict potential achievement. Unluckily, standardized tests do not predict anything; however, they do (watch out, here comes a potential SAT word) retrodict. They provide a lot of information about the past: whether or not the student took prep classes; where the student grew up; where the student went to school. In other words, SATs provide no new information to the colleges that rely on them and are expensive and stressful for the students who take them. As a studious, well-rounded and well-read person, I thoughtfully propose that SATs would be better used as toilet paper than as test paper.

Jesse Griffiths
Feature Co-editor

We there yet?

The wind blows through your hair. Great tunes hum on the radio as the scenery zooms by. Yep, it's a road trip.

Recently, I went on a road trip with four friends to Columbus. We had a blast — five of us crammed into a gray Camry for three hours. After reflecting on the trip, I wanted to share with my fellow students how to make a road trip memorable.

The first ingredient for a road trip is a purpose. It can be as simple as getting away from the 'rents for a while, or as complex as seeking out the reason for life.

My reason for going to Columbus was to keep my friend company on his way to drop his girlfriend off at school.

The next crucial element for a road trip is music. The tunes you choose determine what sort of trip will unfold before you. For example, on our adventure, the Spin Doctors came on the radio, and we established that we were in a Chris Farley movie, such as *Tommy Boy*. The music can make the road an '80s comedy or a '60s drama.

Take the song, "Safety Dance" by Men With Hats, a popular '80s ditty. When this song is on the radio, my friends and I immediately begin dancing in our seats as if programmed from birth. Sure we look like morons to passing traffic, but hearing these notes and sensing their rhythmic pleasure causes crazy spontaneity and teenage hijinks. When there are great '80s songs filling the car, you can almost feel Ferris Bueller sitting in the back seat, enjoying the ride.

Although very entertaining, road trips are hard work for you and your car. It is imperative that you make one stop at an all-purpose fueling establishment for grub and libations along the way. How you act during this stop is important. You must make a complete fool out of yourself. It's always more fun to walk into that BP station and ask the lady working behind the counter if there is a Dunkin' Donuts nearby, then engage in an enthusiastic conversation with a can of Pepsi about how delightful it is that the pack of gum you bought comes in a blue wrapper.

If you walk out of the store and the employees think that you are insane, or confused in any way, then your mission is complete, and your road trip is most likely a success.

Finally, the most important component to your road trip is the people you choose to accompany you. I can't stress enough to you, my friends, just how important this is. There is nothing worse than hitting the point of no return, and finding out that Johnny, the kid you invited last minute, has foot odor. To avoid this, run in-depth background checks on travelers.

If you travel with the right people, your trip will be spontaneous and enlightening. Pick people who make you happy, whose feet don't smell and who make you giddy with their impersonations of televangelist Ernest Angley and Donald Duck.

With this knowledge, travel! See the world, plan a road trip for break. Even if it's a simple day trip, become one with the car.

H_2O rules if cool

• Parched reporters sample high school's aquatic offerings to crown a water fountain champion

By Lia Silver, Jes Burns & Julie Redline
Staff Reporters

You walk past more than 25 of them every day in the halls. Some may intrigue you, some may disgust you. Every once in awhile you may get permission to leave class just to slurp from them. Or you may rush to your next class just to have a few seconds alone with them.

Take it easy. We're talking about water fountains.

So, what makes or breaks a water fountain?

Cold water, consistent flow and pressure, convenience, space to slurp, pleasant surroundings and cleanliness are all on our list of priorities.

With the 26 water fountains located throughout the high school, there is one to suit every thirsty student's tastes.

Students and staff prefer cold water. Senior Dan Gatozzi likes the refreshing taste of cold water in the middle of his day because "the school's kept too hot."

According to Doris Sheehy, of Minnehaha Spring Water Company, cold water hides the unpleasant tastes that water fountains can produce. Many students complain about the aftertaste that Sheehy described.

"The fountain in the office sometimes tastes like rust, metal and electricity," said freshman Latoya Gordon. The fountain in the balcony of the boys' gym, dubbed Cheery-Upper, was alleged to taste like "gross dirt."

Water pressure and its consistency also impact the success of a fountain. When the stream is weak, you have to stick your face in the basin, where germs thrive.

Sometimes the pressure starts out fine, then fluctuates, causing neck cramps, damp clothing, wet hair and a displeased drinker. When the stream is too high, it often splashes onto the wall, surprising the customer.

Even if the fountain is cold and the pressure is good, sloppy surroundings ruin the experience. A repulsive smell, an overflowing trash can, or gum will spoil the bubbler experience.

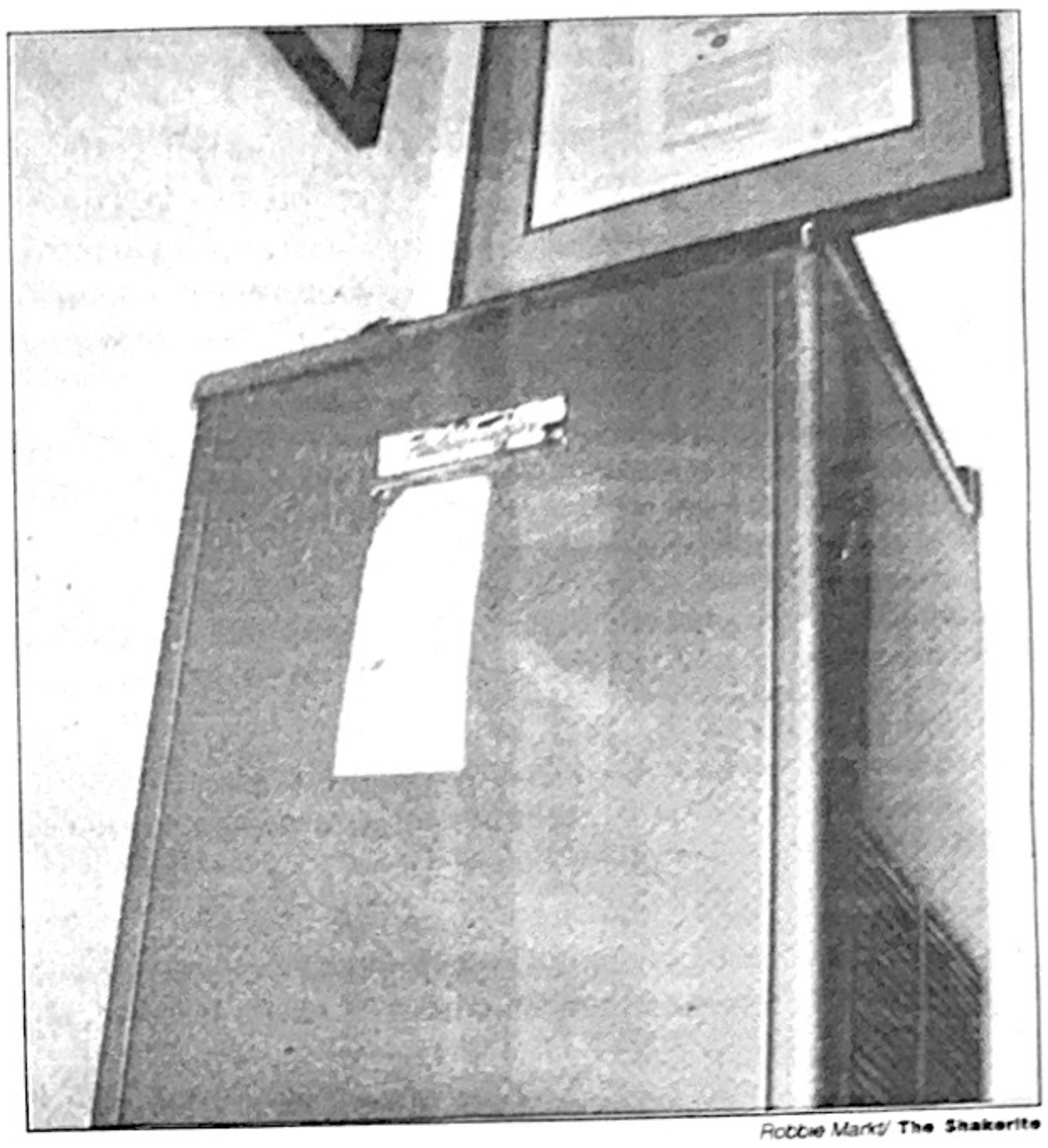
Because students only get a few minutes between classes, convenient location and good traffic flow are crucial to the drinking fountain experience.

"I hate when people bump my bookbag while I am drinking. My face gets shoved into the stream, and I get water up my nose," sophomore Liz Swary said.

The majority of fountains in the high school are manufactured by Halsey Taylor, and they rank among the best water sources. What makes their fountains so irresistible?

According to Halsey Taylor salesman Ray Davis, these fountains reign supreme because "you get quality for the same price. They've been historically number one in the country."

We hope that you begin to savor your water drinking experiences. After all, not every fountain is as cold as the library's "Cold Faithful," as convenient as the third floor's "Water of Many Tongues," or as consistent as the main office's "H_2Office."



Robbie Markt/ The Shakerite

The number one water fountain in the school, "H_2Office," located in the office, is a faculty favorite highly recommended by science teacher David Klapholz.

Robbie Markt/ The Shakerite

Robbie Markt/ The Shakerite

The second place water fountain, "Water of Many Tongues," conveniently located by room 310, is almost always cold. The last place water fountain, "Little Spittle," is located near room 122 and offers warm water that tastes like saliva.

Shaker's renaissance man amazes students and faculty alike

• 19 years after leaving Cuba, Sanchez-Rodriguez proves to be a master of fine and martial arts

By Rachel Hutt
Staff Reporter

Who paints, plays chess, looks after the building *and'* speaks Spanish? None other than Shaker's own Carlos Sanchez-Rodriguez.

Sanchez-Rodriguez, a native of Cuba, has worked as a custodian at Shaker Heights High School for four years. Sanchez-Rodriguez prefers the high school to working at elementary schools because there, his work was always limited to a specific area.

"In the high school . . . I'm always doing different things," said Sanchez-Rodriguez, who lives with his wife and two kids, ages 5 and 6.

Sanchez-Rodriguez is a self-taught artist who has painted throughout his life. Recently, he's used watercolors, oils and airbrush to paint subjects. Upon arriving in Shaker, he benefited from studying with Art Department Chair Jim Hoffman's classes. Since then, people at the high school have benefited from Sanchez-Rodriguez's art skills. He painted a picture for guidance counselor Jasmene Corbitt and designed a logo for a senior class T-shirt.

Sanchez-Rodriguez has also been studying Tae Kwon Do for about a year with a friend on the West side. For intellectual exercise, Sanchez-Rodriguez turns to the chess board, where his skills are rapidly developing. Unlike art, chess is something that Sanchez-Rodriguez has learned only recently. His teacher and frequent opponent was a fellow custodian.

"He always beat me, but once I beat him," Sanchez-Rodriguez said. Now that his mentor works a different shift, the two no longer have the opportunity to play each other. However, Sanchez-Rodriguez found a new chess partner in a friend from Kent.

"I beat him all the time, so he quit," Sanchez-Rodriguez said.

Daily chess practice on the computer helps Sanchez-Rodriguez to improve. He tries to copy the computer's moves and use its strategies when he plays. Techniques vary, but his most common strategy is simple. "Try to get [the opponent] confused," he said. Sanchez-Rodriguez has been invited to come to the Chess Club.

Shaker Heights City Schools

Sarah Ronis/ The Shakerite

Carlos Sanchez-Rodriguez, master of chess, art and good cheer, is one of Shaker's renaissance men.

Not only is Sanchez-Rodriguez involved with the art department and Chess Club, he is also a familiar face among the Spanish-speaking community of the high school. He often talks to Spanish teachers, is a member of the Spanish Club and converses with other members. He helps to welcome exchange students and new Spanish-speaking students into the school.

Sanchez-Rodriguez came to the United States alone in 1980 at age 19. Although there was not one particular event that motivated him to come to America, Sanchez-Rodriguez explained that some people that he worked with in Cuba had family in Miami. When they decided to go, he went.

"We just took off," said Sanchez-Rodriguez, who admits to being scared about life in America.

Sanchez-Rodriguez's family remains in Cuba. He visited in 1996 and hopes to go again in May. Returning to Cuba is hard due to paperwork, and conditions have worsened since his last visit.

"Everything has changed," he said. "Homes are destroyed . . . people are struggling . . . there's [not enough] food or medicine."

Sanchez-Rodriguez said that he hopes the rest of his family will come to the United States. However, leaving Cuba is difficult. Most people are only given one chance to leave.

> ***"I like everybody here at the high school."***
> **CARLOS SANCHEZ-RODRIGUEZ**
> custodian

When Sanchez-Rodriguez arrived in America, he stayed at a refugee camp in Wisconsin for four months. From there, with the help of a Cleveland family, he moved here.

Sanchez-Rodriguez has enhanced his custodial job, and people throughout the school benefit from his friendliness and intelligence. He said he enjoys his job very much and has only one complaint.

"The only thing I don't like at the high school is the way some of the students act — writing on the walls, throwing paper on the floors and cussing," Sanchez-Rodriguez said.

Sanchez-Rodriguez has made a home for himself at Shaker, whether it involves art, chess or Spanish.

"I like everybody here at the high school," he said. "I have lots of friends, and the students are real nice."

HELLO?

Contrary to popular belief, excessive phone use by Shaker teens may prove therapeutic

By Stephanie Gabarik, Meghan Dubyak and Jessica Smith
Staff Reporters

Imagine. Just as you're getting into a conversation with your best friend, your parents knock on your bedroom door and tell you to get off the phone and get started with your homework. You argue that you don't have much homework and you can do it later, but they don't care. Reluctantly, you hang up the phone and miss out on what might have been an important conversation

Sound familiar? There's no doubt that teens like to spend time on the phone, and many adults like to discourage such behavior. In fact, some Shaker students admit to hanging around school after hours just to use the pay phones, even though security personnel are assigned the duty of shooing them home. However, in light of research featured in a recent *Boston Globe* article, the 2.5 hours per night some Shaker students spend talking on the telephone are therapeutic and help with communication skills.

"It's liberating. It gives a child control and confidence," said psychologist Ann Evans, director of the Family Support Group for the Judge Baker Children's Center who was quoted in the article. According to the article, talking to friends on the phone can encourage communication risks and enhance opposite sex interaction.

"On the phone, you can socialize with a boy or girl without having to make eye contact, without having your hands and feet betray how nervous you are," wrote Barbara F. Meltz of the *Boston Globe*.

Pamela Bradford, a Shaker graduate and program director of Center for Children- RapArt in Cleveland Heights agreed.

> ***"I actually got my own phone line because there were so many fights and so many problems."***
>
> **MARISSA GROSSMAN**
> sophomore

"It's safer to talk about issues of importance over the phone . . . it's different than face to face," Bradford said in a recent interview

Nevertheless, sophomore Alex Herrup-Morse doesn't see the value of phone therapy.

"You do not get homework done, hence leading to stress, and it evolves into bad relationships with peers and parents, which leads to talking to no one," he said.

Senior Darwina Griffin sees positives in phone use. She said that talking on the phone "releases energy and helps you connect with people . . . and it's a way of expressing yourself."

While senior Sarah Wick finds phone use to be therapeutic for teenagers, she said phone users must be self-policing.

"Girls talk out their problems like therapy and reach out to friends, but you must know your priorities and have self control," Wick said.

Bradford said that parents should encourage telephone use in teens.

"Parents have to understand that it can be a positive and safe mechanism for facilitating communication for a teen and shouldn't be discouraged," she said.

About 70 students in grades 9-12 returned an informal *Shakerite* survey designed to question the extent to which Shaker students use the telephone on a nightly basis. The survey addressed the nature and length of calls and potential conflicts that arose because of telephone use within a household.

Among students surveyed, time spent on the phone by Shaker teens averaged 2.5 hours per night. Some of the commonly found forms of student phone use might be called TV talk.

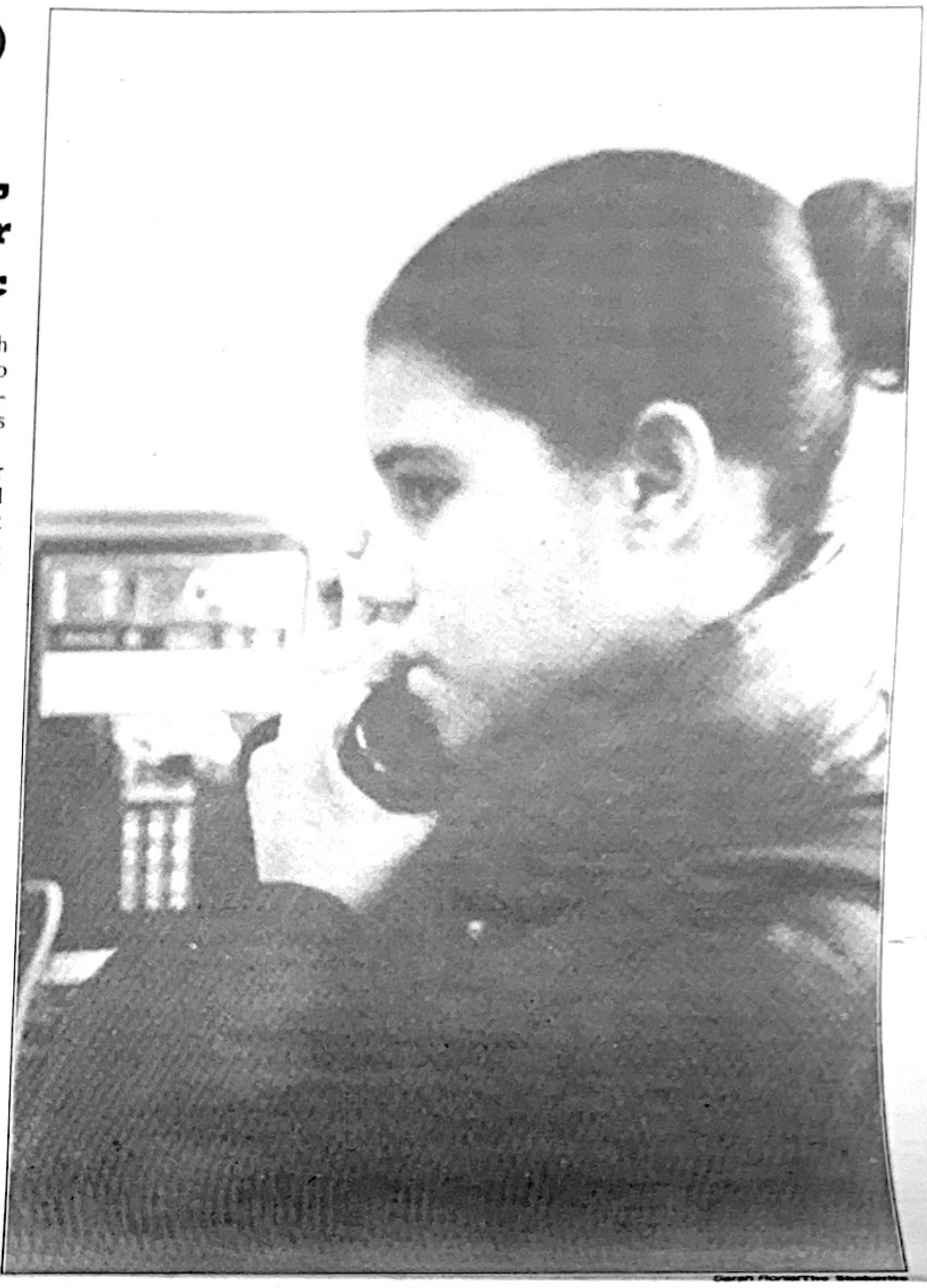
Students call their friends. Each participant camps out in front of the tube, and both watch the same show while staying on the line. They resume conversations during commercials.

"I talk on the phone a lot, sometimes while I'm watching TV, but I am able to talk on the phone and watch TV at the same time, and still concentrate on what the person is saying," sophomore Starlyn Priest said.

More than half of the surveyed students said they incurred problems with their families regarding phone use.

"I actually got my own phone line because there were so many fights and problems," freshman Marissa Grossman said.

Some students aren't as lucky. Senior Dionna Baily said she occasionally has trouble with her family regarding the phone, because "it's four women in my house, plain and simple."



Sarah [illegible]/The Shakerite

"When I use the phone at school, I am usually just calling my parents for rides; I wait to talk to my friends at home," junior Kelli Myles said.

	NAME	GRADE	HOURS PER NIGHT SPENT ON PHONE?	WHO DO YOU TALK TO ON THE PHONE?	WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO TALK ON THE PHONE?	DO YOU HAVE CONFLICTS WITH YOUR PARENTS OR SIBLINGS ABOUT PHONE USE?
	MAKEDA BLACK	11	1	"I talk to my friends just to say hi and what's up and make plans to do something."	"I talk in my room because I know nobody is listening and I can lay down on my bed to be comfortable."	"Yes, because they may think I am spending too much time on the phone."
	ERIC TOLBERT	9	6	"I talk to my dude Sean or some girls to talk about personal stuff."	"I talk in the living room on the couch because my mom is always in her room."	"Yes, because they need to use it but, I am always on it."
	LISA BRUNENGRABER	10	3/4	"I talk to my best friends and I usually talk about random things or about school."	"I talk in my room because that way no one can listen in on me."	"Usually not because they usually only need to use the phone for business and we have two lines."
	JAMES DORSEY	11	3	"I talk to my friends for many reasons."	"I talk in my room because of my stereo and bed."	"Yes, because I am on the phone and my parents need to use it."

New local band causes *Wysteria*

• After impressive Rock Off effort, Blue Wysteria heads for studio

By Stephanie Gabarik
Staff Reporter

If you hear southern rock and blues being played through the streets of Cleveland, look around for the high school's own David Laven and John Manly. They might have something to do with it.

Seniors Manly and Laven, along with University School seniors Mike Lovett, Ryan Russell and Ryan McMonagle, have formed one of Cleveland's only high school southern rock bands.

Lovett, Laven, McMonagle and Russell got together about a year ago, playing only instrumentals in Laven's basement. When Russell bumped into Manly at a party and asked him to join their band, Blue Wysteria was complete.

Since Manly joined the band, Blue Wysteria has played in the Peabody's Down Under Battle of the Bands, the University School Talent Show and the Mountain Dew High School Rock Off.

At the US Talent show held in late fall, Blue Wysteria played two songs. Manly was happy with their performance.

John Manly

Blue Wysteria, a hot new local band, is fronted by singer and varsity football kicker John Manly, with Shaker Senior David Laven on drums. University School seniors Ryan Russell, Mike Lovett and Ryan McMonagle round out the band. Blue Wysteria recieved high marks at the Battle of the Bands and the Cleveland Rock Off. Blue Wysteria combines sourthern blues with rock to create a sound all their own.

At January's Battle of the Bands, where winners were chosen by fan votes, Blue Wysteria made it to the final 16 of about 200 bands.

According to Russell and Manly, fan bases at Shaker and US are strong. Laven was surprised by the number of Shaker fans who attended.

"We have a good support group," Manly said. "It's fun to have friends at our shows."

> ***"I hope it will inspire more bands who are oriented with rock, southern rock and blues."***
>
> **DAVID LAVEN**
> senior

The fans agree.

"They were great showmen," Shaker senior Jimmy Weinland said about Blue Wysteria's performance at the High School Rock Off.

That competition was a good place to see fans in action. Blue Wysteria played at the Odeon in the Flats on Jan. 25, which was the last day of qualifying competition for the 65 competing bands. Overall, Blue Wysteria was one of 16 Rock Off bands chosen to participate in the finals Jan. 30.

Though they did not place in the Rock Off finals, they won a spot on a compilation CD just by qualifying. The Rock Off also helped them land a gig at the Odeon along with many other bands that made it to the finals.

Fans at the Rock Off welcomed Blue Wysteria's different style of music, according to the Cleveland Live website.

"The band's blend of twang and boogie was well-received by the Northern Ohio crowd," Cleveland Live said.

Junior Joanna Henry was fond of what she heard when she attended one of the band's shows. "I thought each member was really talented," Henry said. "Especially Manly. His voice is amazing."

She said that the band is similar to jam bands such as Phish, a style of rock she favors.

Although Blue Wysteria is making waves as one of the only southern rock high school bands in the area, they don't intend to continue playing with each other during or after college.

Russell, who will attend Skidmore College in the fall, hopes to get a band going during college and continue it as a career. He appreciates the experience he's gaining by playing with Blue Wysteria, as do Laven and Manly.

"It has helped me perform in other musical aspects," said Laven, who also plays in the high school wind ensemble.

The band members also agree that their nerves have settled down since joining the band. They feel that playing in Blue Wysteria has made them more used to being in the limelight. However, if they're not nervous, they're not going to play very well, according to Laven.

The members of Blue Wysteria are recording a CD for their senior project. It will be released at the end of the school year. Until then, they will try to influence southern rock and blues bands into working their way into the Cleveland music scene.

"I hope it will inspire more bands who are oriented with rock, southern rock and blues," Laven said.

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Peabody's
Down Under
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3/28
Dylan Group
Grog Shop
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4/1
Rolling Stones
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Stabbing Westward/ Placebo
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David Allen Coe
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Mighty Mighty Bosstones
John Carroll University
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Rod Stewart
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Marilyn Manson
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Soul Coughing
Case Western Reserve
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98°
Palace Theatre
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4/23
David Sanborn
Palace Theatre
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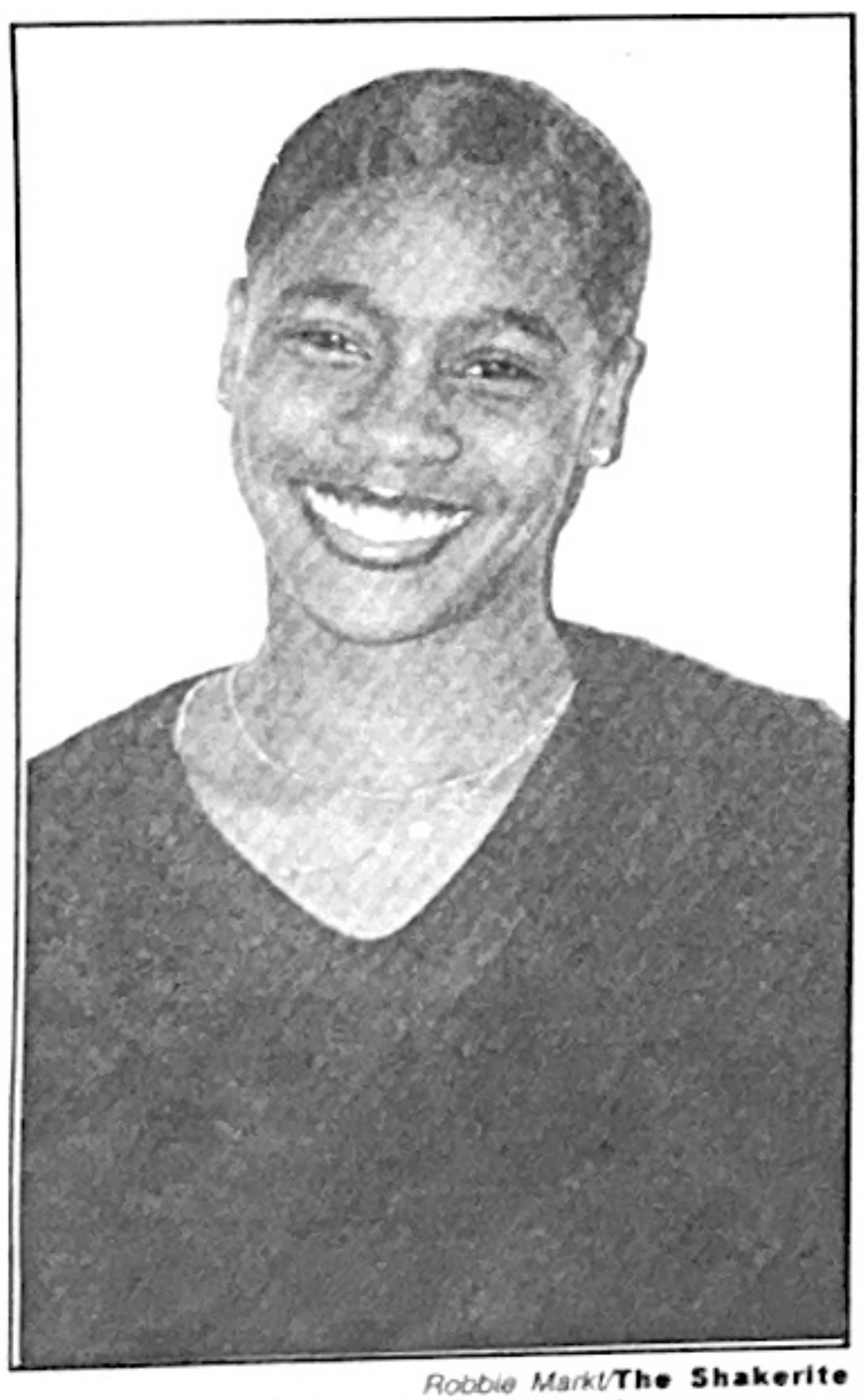
4/24
Wynton Marsalis
Palace Theater

From the track to the choir room, Kim Harris is a star

• Harris combines the talents of Carey, Houston . . . and Flo-Jo



Robbie Markt/**The Shakerite**

Junior Kim Harris is ready to sing whenever, wherever, including Gund Arena. Harris is waiting on a call to find out when she will sing the national anthem before a Cavs game.

By Rob Rains
Staff Reporter

Whitney Houston meets Mariah Carey.

Junior Kim Harris combines the voice of Whitney Houston with the work ethic of Mariah Carey for the total performance package.

"I run [in the morning] from about 5 to 6," Harris said. Harris is actively involved with track and choir. "I started off [in choir] in 10th grade in an all-girl's choir," Harris said. She has advanced since then and is now a part of A Cappella choir.

a&e *raider of* **THE MONTH**

Harris has been singing all her life and became involved as a toddler, influenced by her father, a reverend. "Since 2, 3 on up I've been singing," Harris said, "basically since I could talk."

Harris was an active singer in the children's choir at Mt. Olive Baptist church, where her father works.

Harris' warm up routine for choir involves doing scales and vowels with her mouth, which is important, especially in the winter, when vocal chords get tighter due to the cold.

"I'm always ready to sing," Harris said, "but sometimes I have to do a little something before I can sing."

In order to perfect her voice, Harris practiced with her church choir. Harris' devotion to singing and her will to learn and perfect her voice is where a comparison to Mariah Carey comes from.

"She is very dedicated, very talented," said choir director Dr. Robert Schneider. As a section leader in the A Cappella Choir, Harris guides the altos through the songs. "She's a great section leader," Schneider said.

"I love singing," Harris said. "I'm hoping it will take me far in life."

For track, the warm-up includes two laps as a team and a series of stretches as well as non-physical preparation, too.

"We have to prepare ourselves mentally," Harris said.

In her spare time, Harris enjoys visiting nursing homes, reading and dancing. "I love to dance," Harris said. "Visiting the nursing homes, singing to them, just brightening their day makes me feel good."

As for Dance Club, Harris is crossing her fingers for a shot at joining senior year.

To some, devoting such an exorbitant amount of time to choir and athletics may seem like a chore, but Harris enjoys it.

"I'd be nowhere without either of them," Harris said of singing and track. "It completes me as a person. It has probably defined me more as a person. I put my all into it, so other people get a reflection of that. It's a chip off of me."

As for advice to student athletes and people in choir who may be struggling, Harris said, "You have to basically find what suits you, work with it and be your best at it."

In the future, Harris hopes to keep up with her athletics and singing, but will not let them interfere with a good education.

"Education is important to me," Harris said. "I don't know, I could break my leg or lose my voice at any time, so I need to be educated."

Harris also is waiting on a call to sing the national anthem in Gund Arena for a Cavaliers game. Until then, Harris will practice extensively in the shower.

"When they call, I'll let you know," Harris said.

By **Nate Levin**
A&E editor

Verdict is in on TV courts

The gavel raps. Order fills the court room. The hallowed halls of justice are filled with people waiting to hear judgment passed on their pending cases.

However, the proceedings in these select court rooms are televised to millions of people worldwide.

These are the courtrooms of Judge Judith Scheindlin and Judge Mills Lane.

Let's review those on the bench. First we have Judge Judy, the only woman in her mid 50s that I could honestly picture body slamming "Stone Cold" Steve Austin. Advantages to Judge Judy's courtroom are the entertaining fits she throws at people of subpar intelligence and her constant harassment of deadbeat fathers.

Next we have Judge Mills Lane. As his show's intro states, other than a judge, Lane is a former Marine, a referee, a lawyer and above all a family man. Lane uses excellent lines such as "Let's get it on" and "Don't play Bill Clinton with me." Like Judge Judy, Lane runs a stern, no nonsense courtroom.

Every afternoon these real life courtroom dramas unfold before America's eyes. It is utter nonsense that anyone living in the twentieth century would want to watch two random strangers argue. But you know what? It is more than entertaining.

Why do we as human beings take so much satisfaction in each other's demise?

The answer is simple. Our lives are so overloaded with unnecessary stress that other people's misfortunes provide us with relief from our own trauma. These shows give us a peek inside of the lives of people who really *do* have enough things wrong in their lives that they have to share their personal problems on TV.

Next time you're feeling down and nothing is going your way, tune into the judges' courtrooms and let the bizarre misfortunes of others cheer you right up.

Metallica revisits old days, Mellencamp is all new

•This month, *Analyze This*, *Rushmore*, plus two hot novels

Music

Garage Inc.
Metallica

In the world of rock 'n' roll, covering a track can be considered the highest of compliments or the biggest of insults. However, Metallica's new album *Garage Inc.* definitely flatters.

Arguably the most successful metal band of all time, Metallica has finally released a long-awaited double album of cover tracks, first recorded by a long list of huge acts including Diamond Head, Bob Seger and Queen. Although most cover tracks leave something to be desired, Metallica comes through on every level.

The band influences tracks like Queen's "Stone Cold Crazy," and the album's first single, Bob Seger's "Turn the Page," enough to make them sound unmistakably Metallica.

Nate Levin

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Out of Four

John Mellencamp
John Mellencamp

Once in a while an album is released and you can tell with one listen that the artist put his full heart behind it. This is true of the new self-titled masterpiece by John Mellencamp.

After years of heated battles, Mellencamp completed his obligation to Polygram Records and signed with Columbia Records. This is Mellencamp's first album on the new label.

The first single, "Your Life is Now," is an upbeat ballad in which Mellencamp sings of taking it day by day. "I'm on My Way" and "Positively Crazy" are sweet, well-crafted, solid songs that speak of Mellencamp's sometimes relaxed, sometimes hectic life.

I strongly recommend this album and issue a challenge to all readers to find an album that is as meaningful and as musically solid as this.

Nate Levin

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Out of Four

Movies

Analyze This

What do psychiatry, the Mafia and wedding days have in common? They're all part of the unlikely plot of *Analyze This*, the new movie starring Robert DeNiro, Billy Crystal and Lisa Kudrow. DeNiro plays Paul Vitti, head of one of the major crime families in New York. In this cleverly construed mobster comedy, DeNiro follows Crystal, forcing him to become his psychiatrist. Not only does DeNiro ruin Crystal's wedding day, he also gets him tied up in a dangerous Mafia convention. At first Crystal is intimidated by DeNiro, but he eventually forges an improbable friendship with the softhearted mobster who is still getting over the loss of his father.

Although the plot isn't extremely complicated, Crystal and DeNiro made this movie with their impersonations and humor. It kept us in suspense and laughter the entire movie, and we left the theater wishing it could have been longer. *Analyze This* is a movie you won't want to miss.

Julie Redline and Lia Silver

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Out of Four

Rushmore

Rushmore Academy is like any other fancy prep school in the country. Its students sport monogrammed blazers and are picked up in Porches and BMWs. However, *Rushmore's* most active character is its worst student ever. The film, named after this illustrious institution, is as quirky and original as this unusual scholar.

Rushmore's plot is in the standard "boy-meets-girl-boy-falls-in-love-with-girl-girl-loves-another-guy" format so common in modern films.

The film's originality surfaces in the depiction of the absolutely absurd ways by which the two main characters, Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman) and Mr. Blume (Bill Murray), try to destroy each other. This attempt at annihilation of the other is all for the love of a first grade teacher at the school.

Given the lukewarm attitude of Miss Cross to Fischer's mentor and friend, Mr. Blume, the two men's antics seem a little overboard. (Fischer cuts Blume's car's brakes, Blume runs over Fischer's bike, etc.) The odd thing about this film is that these ridiculous actions are normal in this world. The culmination of this battle is unexpected and entertaining, a fitting end to a very good film.

Lisa Samols

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Out of Four

Books

The Farming of Bones
Edwidge Danticat

This story of the Dominican Republic during the 1930s is one of bloodshed and sadness told by Amabelle, a Haitian worker in *The Farming of Bones* by Edwidge Danticat. The story takes place in a prestigious town known as Happy, but the place is far from pleasant for the workers at the nearby cane plantation. The story goes from bad to worse when Dominican authorities ethnically cleanse the Haitians from the country. Amabelle and her lover, Sebastien, try to escape, but only Amabelle reaches safety while Sebastien is caught in a massacre. The book is without a doubt one of the most introspective novels I have ever read. The bulk of the story deals with the power of the human spirit to recover from injury and continue to live. Amabelle, in the end, is able to return to the Dominican Republic and reclaim herself.

Najah Farley

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Out of Four

She's Come Undone
Wally Lamb

As far as Dolores in Wally Lamb's *She's Come Undone* is concerned, life is not worth living. She's the 300-lb. victim of too many Oreos and Malimars who was raped at 13. Unfortunately, the rape was only the beginning of Dolores' many traumas. She tries college, realizes she's not cut out for it, runs away to have an unsuccessful relationship and nearly drowns herself while looking for whales in the ocean. She is put in a psychiatric hospital for seven years, begins losing weight and attempts to relive her childhood by pretending a male psychiatrist is her mother.

Lamb's tale depicting 34 years of Dolores' life is an enjoyable ride for those who delight in the unexpected.

Jenny Heisler

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Out of Four

Do you like what you see?

Sign up for Journalism I next semester to write for ***The Shakerite***.

NEW STAGES TURNS 17

Iggy Kaufman

New Stages 17 played at the Stage 3 Theater March 18-20. *New Stages* is a collection of plays written and directed by Shaker students, Ben Spiro, Dawn Huckelbridge, Jeff Rosenberg, Carolyn Shook and Laura Jacqmin. The shows featured SHHS theater veterans as well as newcomers. Pictured here are Jimmy Dunn, Jon Malangoni, Rachel Kiwi and Ben Spiro.

Shaker Heights Teachers' Association

STA

Professionals Dedicated To Educating Shaker's Youth

Cleveland radio: Good vibrations or noise pollution?

• As large corporations buy small stations with local history, Cleveland radio makes an about face

By Nate Levin
A&E Editor

While many are struggling to finish last minute assignments for afternoon classes, a nationwide army of men in their early 20s to late 40s prepares to receive orders.

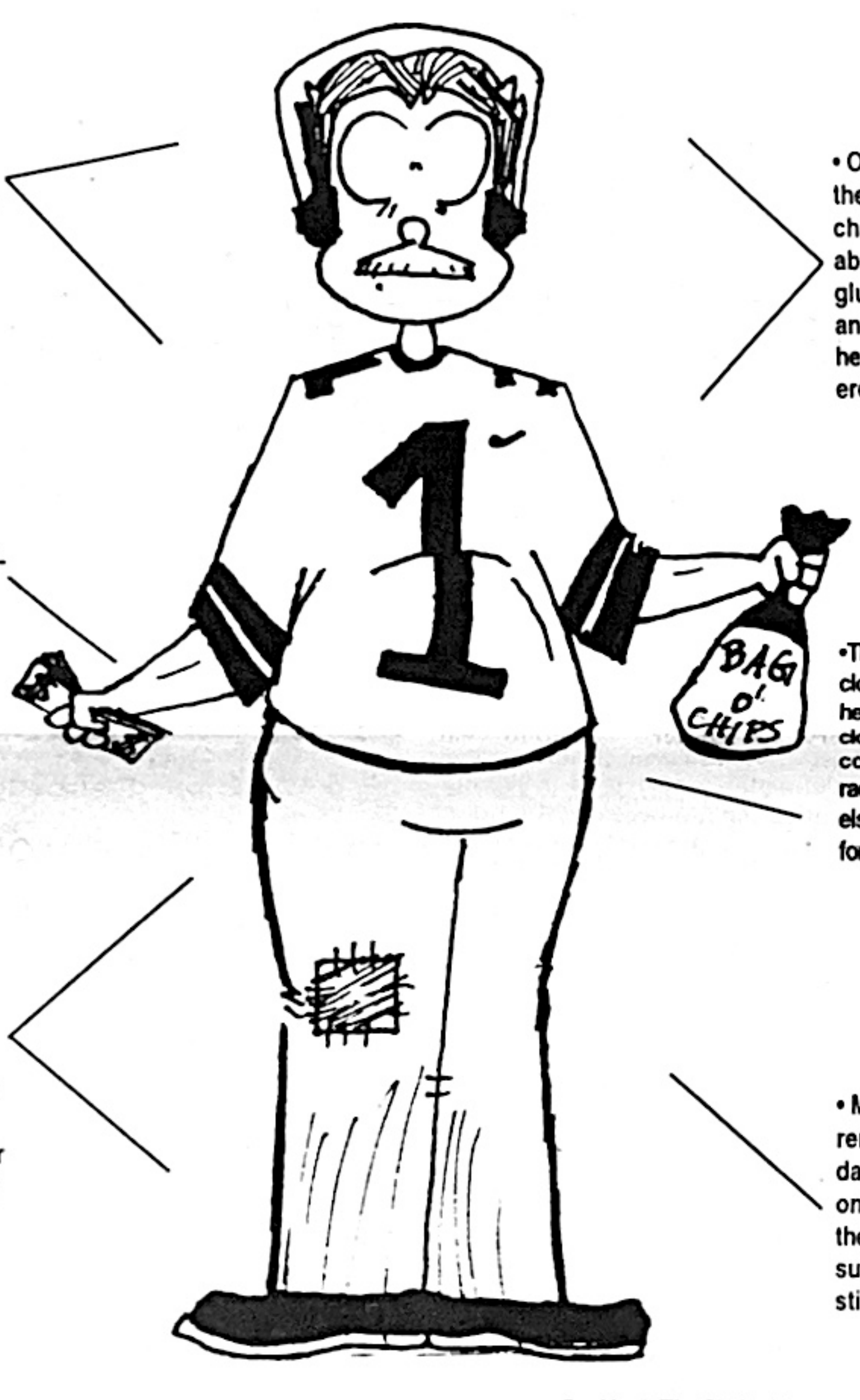
These orders will not come from a general, the secretary of defense or even the president. No, someone bigger issues these orders.

Sports personality Jim Rome hands out his brand of smack every Monday through Friday from his southern California studio. He dishes out his strong beliefs about the worlds of professional and college sports to his followers, known as clones. These clones call, fax and imitate Rome incessantly.

Rome's style accounts for his popularity. Using the vocabulary of an eighth grader, Rome brings out the same obnoxious teenager that lives in a 22-year-old pre-med student and in a 42-year-old lumber mill manager.

Rome clones are very committed and dedicated followers. Enough so to stand in lines hundreds of feet long, in freezing January temperatures, to get tickets for a glimpse of their czar. Rome clones set the Cleveland State University Convocation Center attendance record when their idol brought a tour stop to town. For more than two hours, clones watched Rome interview many C-Town sports figures. (C-Town , a term for Cleveland, is one of the many nicknames Rome gives to cities all over the country. The Natti is Cincinnati, C-Bus is Columbus, Crabchester is Rochester and Bugaha is Omaha).

I was one of the more than 300 brave clones who stood in line outside of Play It Again Sports at Shaker Towne Centre for almost two hours to snag tickets for Rome's tour. As I waited, I noticed several physical characteristics of clones that were reinforced less than a week later at the jam-packed tour stop. Here is a handy guide to detecting a Rome clone.



• A clone can watch any sporting event from bowling to ice fishing. He may moan and groan that NASCAR is not really a sport and that drivers are not athletes, but he will watch.

• Obviously, Rome clones are at the top of the sports fan food chain. If ever you are out and about and see an individual glued to a pair of headphones and wearing sports attire from head to toe, you have discovered a Rome clone.

• Most clones are educated individuals with well paying jobs. They need to be able to fork over ridiculous Pay-Per-View prices for boxing matches.

•The stomach of the average Rome clone is filled with fast food and heavily salted snack chips. Rome clones alone keep the Little Debbie company running. The endless parade of greasy burgers and beer fuels clones in their own personal efforts to change the world.

•The average clone's attire comes from the "dumpster" collection. Clones usually wear clothes common to construction workers, but without the hazard orange reflective tape. Most clones still wear the same jeans they wore in college and often don't notice the foul odor that their eight-year-old work boots emit.

• Many Rome clones like to reminisce about their sporting days, much like Al Bundy. Not only do they tell stories, but they also insist that injuries suffered in the eleventh grade still haunt them to this day.

Dan Moody/**The Shakerite**

What do you wake up to?

•If you're used to hearing Howie Green when the alarm rings, prepare to change

Howard Stern ~ FM 88.5

The self-proclaimed king of all media still has the presence and fan following he has enjoyed since he started his no-holds barred approach to radio and the world. Howard Stern has been called one of the most vulgar, obnoxious, perverted individuals to ever foul America's airwaves. He has conquered almost all forms of media while insulting all minority groups.

Personally, I am a Stern fan. I certainly don't agree with most of the things he chooses to broadcast to America, but I see him as a guy who only represents what most of America is thinking.

Nate Levin/**The Shakerite**

If you like Green's laid-back, all too serious attitude, you will despise Stern! You will be offended to the point of disgust. However, if you like history's greatest rebels, those who give the finger to society's conformists, you may like your cereal with Stern.

Nate Levin

Tom Joyner ~ FM 93.1

"Oh, it's the Tom Joyner morning show." The show features Tom Joyner and a few of his friends commenting on everything under the sun while playing sweet songs in between. This show is a hit because it is one of the few that caters to an African-American audience without being offensive.

Where else will you find a soap opera called "It's your world" featuring characters such as Pookie and Monie? *Also, what other morning show can claim to broadcast a little-known black history fact every day of the week?* Personally, I enjoy the abundance of old school jams they play. Waking up to the disco of Donna Summer's "To Be Real" and the funk of George Clinton's "Tear the Roof Off the Sucker" sincerely makes my day better.

Najah Farley

Greg Brinda ~ AM 1220

AM 1220 WKNR held the spot as the number one sports talk radio station in the country during a time when Cleveland was on top of the world supporting our 1995 American League Champions.

Yet, as is nowhere more evident than in the world of sports, champions must eventually give up their thrones, and WKNR's popularity came crashing down.

Over the last few years the station has changed dramatically. The morning man is now veteran Cleveland sports talk-show host Greg Brinda.

Brinda is by no means the best speaker or most inquisitive talk radio host, but if you need to listen to last night's scores, no other show gives a more complete wrap up.

Nate Levin

The End is near for 107.9, fewer options in store for listeners

By Meredith Edwards and Jess Strange
Staff Reporters

The End is definitely here, but maybe not for long.

According to reports in the *Free Times* and *Plain Dealer*, WENZ (107.9) is the latest Cleveland radio station to change hands, after being purchased by Radio One. Radio One is based in Washington D.C., and the majority of its stations play urban contemporary music, much like that of Cleveland's 92.3 and 93.1 FM.

The End debuted in 1991, making a splash among alternative rock fans by playing REM's "It's the End of the World As We Know It" for 24 hours straight. However, according to a WENZ spokesperson, pending FCC approval, the new owners will change the station's format, marking an end to the station's alternative rock reign. Media reports indicate that 107.9 will most likely follow the format of Radio One's already existing stations by playing an urban contemporary format.

The potential change brings about new questions involving competition and diversity among radio stations. Some worry that variety among radio station formats is threatened and suggest that another urban contemporary station would contribute to homogenous programming.

"[Radio stations] should be more diverse," sophomore Adia Mitchell said. "I don't want it to change. There are too many stations like [93.1] already."

However, existing stations with similar formats say a newcomer would be welcome.

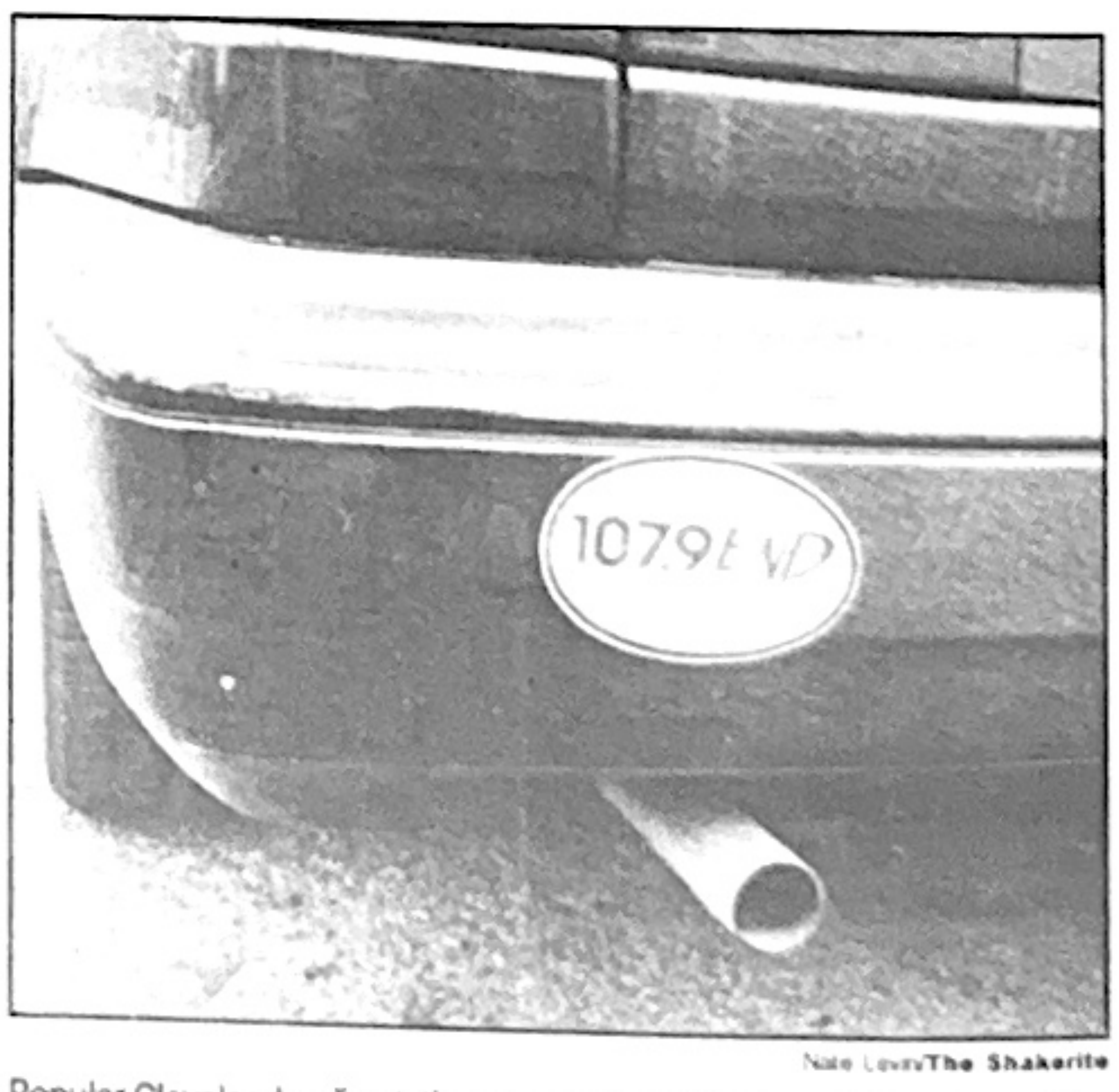
"It will definitely be a competitor," said Dan Shaw, promotions director of Chancellor Media, the company that owns 92.3 and 93.1. "It will be a direct competitor with WZAK, not so much with 92.3, although there is some overlap in the music. The competition is actually very healthy because it makes us better, and radio in Cleveland will be better."

However, most students do not seem to care about giving the existing radio stations competition. Students said that they are not loyal to a station because of it's identity, they just listen to what they like.

"Personally I don't really care if the new station gives 93.1 competition. If it plays what I like, then I'm gonna listen to it," freshman Kate Coulton said.

WENZ is currently the only radio station playing exclusively alternative rock in the Cleveland area. With the impending loss of this station, fans of the genre wonder if another radio station will follow in The End's footsteps. Until then, they're left with a serious question.

"No more Dave Matthews Band?" freshman Sara Grossman said.



Nate Levin/**The Shakerite**

Popular Cleveland radio station 107.9 The End will most likley change to an urban contemporary format. The new 107.9 would rival Cleveland's reigning urban station WZAK 93.1. 107.9 has became very popular over the past eight years after Power 108 went off the air.

New season greets hopeful athletes

• Grassy fields, long dormant, awaken to sound of spring sports workouts

With the arrival of the spring solstice and the promise of sporting weather, Raider teams aim to match last year's springtime achievements, including five LEL titles.

Baseball

There is a good deal of uncertainty about the varsity baseball team, which last year made it all the way to the regional championships. The Raiders finished their season 23-6 and were ranked eighth in the state. They lost their final game of the season in a nail-biter against St. Edward, which went on to win the state crown. Nine seniors graduated from last year's team.

"We are going into this year with an inexperienced pitching staff," Head Coach Bud Longo said. The team lost virtually their whole staff due to graduation. The only pitcher with any varsity experience is senior Mike Casper, and he hasn't pitched a varsity game since sophomore year.

The Raiders, who have won the LEL title five years running, are stepping into the tougher Lake division. Euclid, another strong team, is moving with them.

"The Lake division is one of the top divisions in the state of Ohio," Longo said.

Steve Strang

Men's Lacrosse

This year, although the men's team has lost its two all-stars and a few other key players, the Raiders are optimistic for an exciting and successful season.

"You lose three of the top players in the state," junior goalie David Kresnye said, "that's going to take a hit on you. But there's a lot of unity, and we work really well together."

Stepping up in place of the graduates are sophomore midfielder Matt Falkner, juniors Howie Dingle and Ryan Livingston at attack and senior Tom Fallon, junior Adam Moore and sophomore Mike Moore combining for "probably the fastest and strongest defense," according to senior captain Scott Martin.

Nate Auerbach and Rich Rund

Women's Lacrosse

Although the women's varsity lacrosse team has only two seniors, Lauren Dietrich and Gillian Boyd, the team has strength in its youth.

"We could possibly be better than last year," junior and former national team member Emily Blanton said. "We have a lot of young players and we're pretty tight with each other. We lost a lot of seniors, but a lot of young players will step it up."

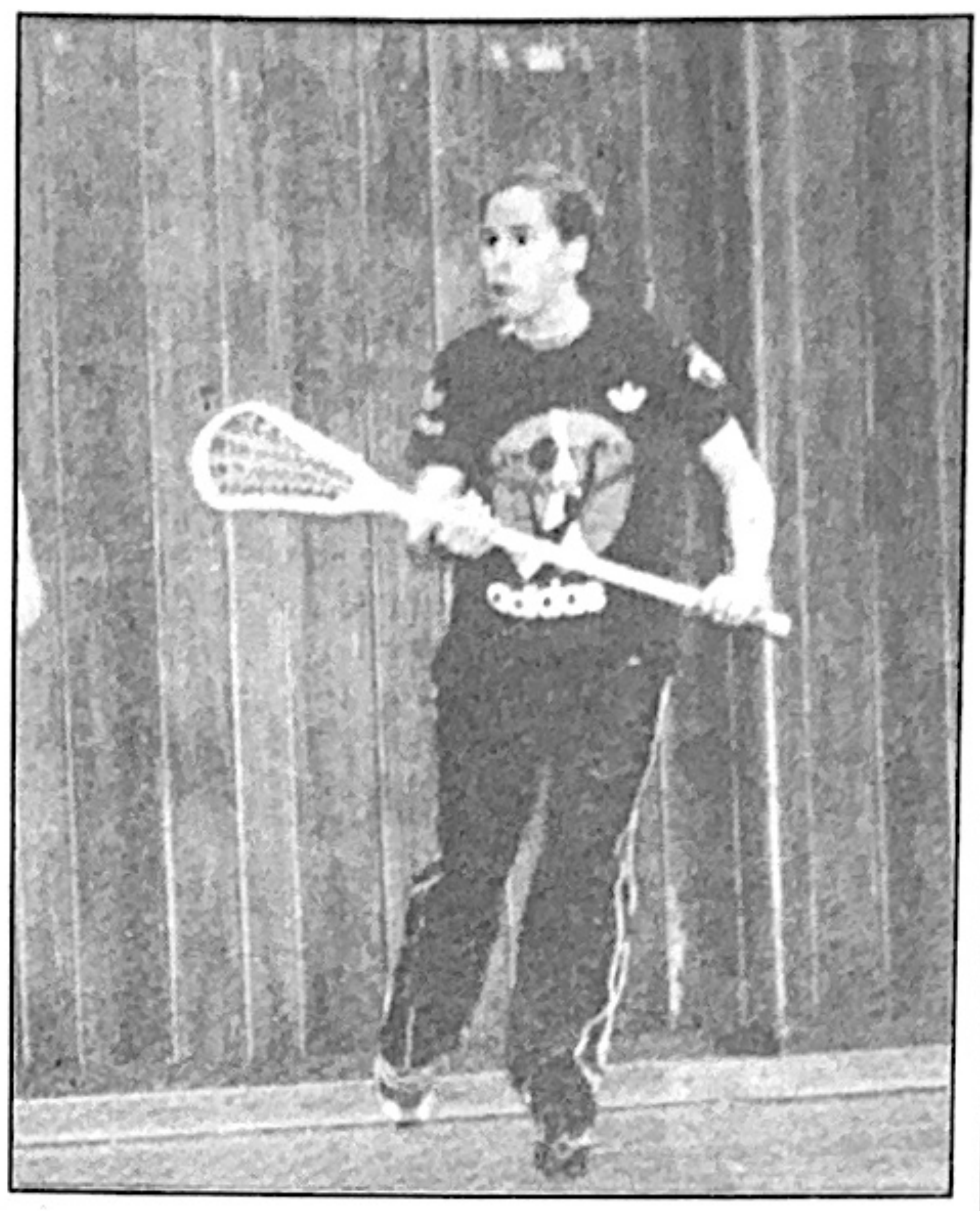
The girls have been training together all winter, playing indoor lacrosse every week.

"It gave us a chance to see a lot of other teams," Blanton said, adding that even though they didn't face all of their rivals indoors, the competition did not appear too tough.

Shaker will face one of its biggest rivals April 23 when they take on Cleveland Heights at Woodbury Field. According to ***Blanton, Heights should be a tough competitor this year.***

The most exciting aspect of the season could be the team's trip to Florida for spring break. Regular season competition begins April 6 against Wooster.

Alex Kolb



File Photo

Junior Lauren Markt prepares to catch a ball during an afternoon lacrosse practice. Markt and the team will vie for another LEL title.

Men's Track

The men's track team is expected to cover far distances as they strive to carry the baton to a league championship repeat.

The task will be tougher than last year because the team has moved from the Erie Division to the Lake Division of the Lake Erie League.

"Every dual meet will be a challenge," said Head Coach Charles Richard, adding that the winner of the first meet (against Mentor and Cleveland Heights) will end up winning the league.

"I think we'll win the ***LEL this year," said senior Matt Pope, who runs the 100 m, 200 m, 4x1 relay and high jumps. "We've got a*** real good relay. Every event on the field is basically covered with a lot of talent."

Women's Track

With an increase in athletes and coaches, the women's track team may perform better this year than ever before.

"We should be very good," Head Coach Henry Woodard said. "We're better than we were last year because we have more depth. We have the same explosive front line people."

This year the team participated in the Nike indoor national meet with some of the nation's best athletes. Woodard planned to compete in many other quality national meets so that the women could run against the nation's best.

"They see runners who are national level runners and they learn from it," Woodard said.

Softball

Under second-year Head Coach Martin Ribar, the Raider softball team is prepared to compete.

"Last year was sort of a transition year for the team, but this year we're readt to come together as a team and win," said senior Nichole Kirtley.

Team captains are Quiana Smith and Kim Lyons. With four pitchers and catchers and an improved infield, the Raiders look forward to the season.

POWDER

FROM PAGE 16

have to play with their opposite hands, but their sticks were replaced with brooms and mops.

The goalie was not the stalwart senior Scott Graham, but his mom, Gillian Graham.

Pregame speculation ran high, with some girls betting against themselves.

"The boys are going to win," Johnston said.

Still, the majority stayed true to their team.

"I think it will be fun and for a good cause," sophomore Amy Gross said.

"The girls are going to blow the guys away."

The men were also fairly confident going into the match. "I think the girls are going to cheat," junior Matt Shenk said.

The game was refereed by math teachers Michael Kabay and Walter Slovikovski, who maintain that they were all but fair.

"I expect to see a competitive match with very little blood spilled," Slovikovski said before the contest.

"But I have a feeling that things will go their [the girls] way."

Slovikovski and Kabay pulled out all the officiating stops, allowing multiple pucks and cones on the ice and enforcing penalties such as "hugging." They pulled as many as four players off the ice at a time for fighting.

1998 graduate Tommy Gelehrter, in town on spring break from Syracuse University, announced the contest. Gelehrter is majoring in sports broadcasting.

Three periods of play and many officially revoked goals later, the score was deadlocked at five. After a scoreless overtime and shoot-out, the game ended in a tie.

In the end, the hockey game pulled in over $5000 dollars for the foundation.

Raider Wrap-Up

Men's Basketball
Record: 24-1
Next Game: March 26, at OSU's Schottenstein Center, 6:15 p.m.

Women's Basketball
Record: 14-7

Men's Swimming
Record: 9-0

Women's Swimming
Record: 9-0

Ice Hockey
Record: 27-3

Wrestling
Record: 9-5

Combined Raider Record
92-16

RAIDERS OF THE MONTH

DALANDA JACKSON

Sport: Track
Year: senior

Achievement: Last year she was state runner-up and was ranked 13th in the nation in the 100 meter hurdles.

Coach's Comment: "She is one of the best hurdlers I've ever seen. She's a tremendous runner, very competitive, highly recruited by Division I schools and gets good grades." *-Henry Woodard.*

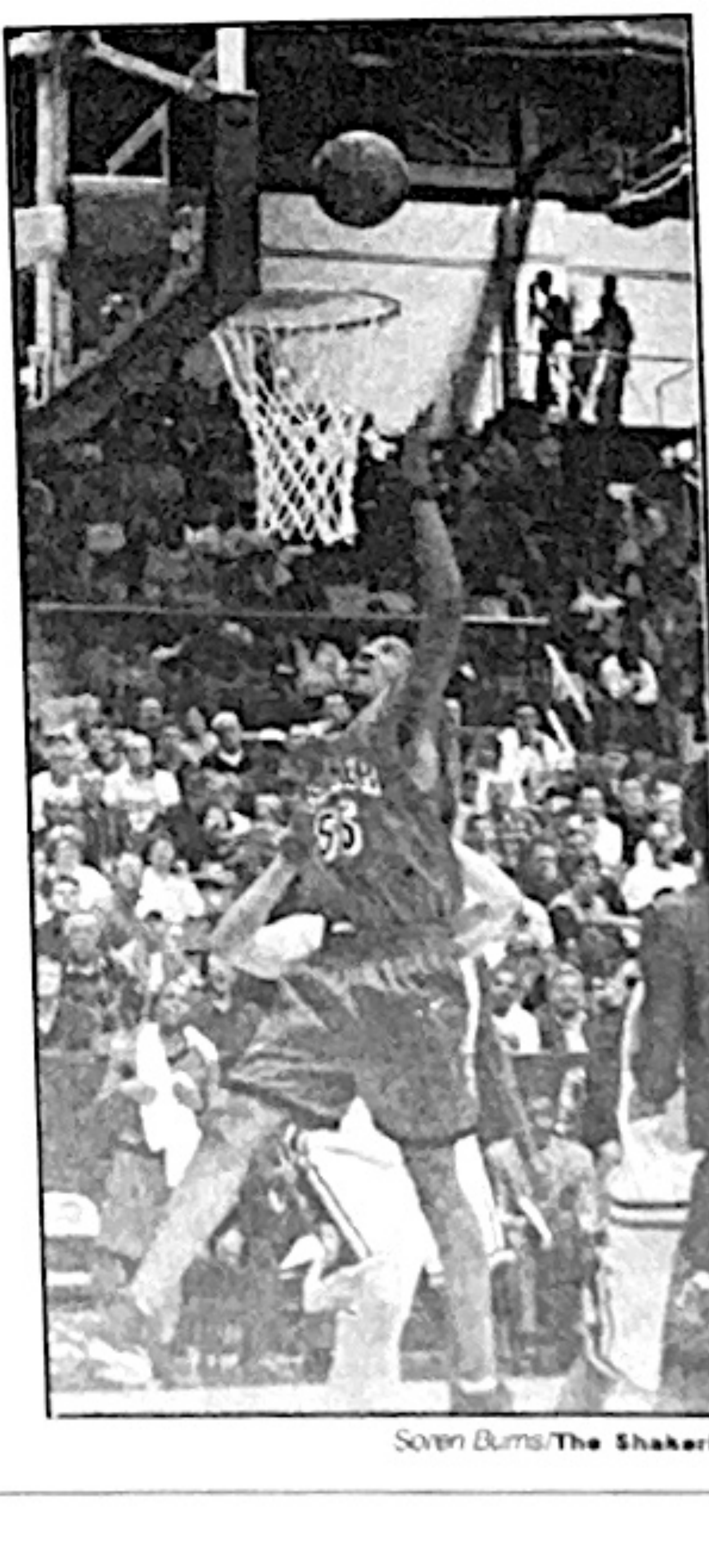
Teammate's Comment: "She's very dedicated and hard working. She keeps up the spirit." *-Sharisse Long.*

Favorite Sports Memory: "Last year at the regional track meet, I went for a victory in the 300 meter hurdles and I fell."

Future Plans: Jackson plans to attend college out west, but isn't sure which one.

Nicole Majorczyk

File Photo



Soren Burns/The Shakerite

MICHAEL TUCKER

Sport: Basketball
Year: senior

Achievement: Tucker has been named *Plain Dealer* Player of the Week, All Northeast Ohio and the All District.

Coach's Comment: " He is a great player. All year he has had a great run down the stretch. He is clearly an MVP of the league." – *Bob Wonson*

Teammate's Comment: "He is a great defensive player and one of the best shot blockers on the team." – *Tyson Barnes*

Favorite Sports Memory: "At the last game [regional championship], when the buzzer went off. It meant that we had qualified to go to the state final four."

Future Plans: Tucker plans to go to college but has yet to decide on a school.

Nicole Majorczyk

SPORTS

spring **IT ON!**
Raiders prepare for spring season with practice and spring break trips.
SPORTS, page 15

Dream of hockey title crushed in semifinals

• For the second straight season, Shaker's ice hockey team roared into the final four, but a 2-1 loss to the Titans of Toledo St. John left the senior-dominated team without a title to call their own

By Nicole Majorczyk
Sports Editor

The Raider hockey team completed another close-but-not-close-enough season, making it all the way to state semifinals.

A 2-1 loss to Toledo St. John in the state semifinal game at the Brooklyn Recreation Center ended Shaker's second straight trip to the final four. On the way, the Raiders skated through a dominating season. After winning the Baron Cup and the Thornton and Cleveland Heights tournaments, the team was confident as they approached the Toledo game.

"We had a lot of confidence going into the championship, especially after winning the Baron Cup. It proved that we were one of the best in the state," junior Rashaun Ewing said.

The Raiders earned the third seed into the final four by defeating Euclid Feb. 24. The win bettered their record to 25-2-1.

The win over Euclid set up a game with rival St. Ignatius on Saturday Feb. 27.

Shaker dispatched the Wildcats, 3-0. Senior Joe Simon scored the first goal at 1:45 of the second period during a power play with assists by juniors Matt Shenk, Mike Perrin and Ewing.

The second goal, a whip shot by senior Abe Kinkopf, also came when St. Ignatius was down a player. With seven seconds left in the third period, Ewing scored the final goal to seal the district championship.

"When you score in the playoffs, it's always big. When you score the first goal of the game, you get the big mo' [momentum]. And when you get that, you just feel on top of the world," Simon said.

This game marked senior goalie Scott Graham's fourth shut out of the season. He stopped all 27 of Ignatius' attempts. Graham, considered one of the top goalies in the state, finished the season with a .916 save percentage. Though he was expecting win a state title, Graham felt that this season was a strong one.

"This year was very special in that it was my last year. We wanted to go out on a high note, but that didn't happen. Ultimately, it was a good season," Graham said. On March 6, the Raiders met 25-4-1 Toledo St. John Titans on the Brooklyn Recreation Center ice. The Raiders prepared for the match using determination gained from their loss to Bowling Green in the state championship last year.

"All year our goal was to make it back to the state finals. When we didn't make it back, it was devastating for us," senior Abe Kinkopf said.

Shaker scored the first goal at 11:32 of the first period. Shenk put the puck in the net after receiving a pass from Ewing.

The Raiders held their 1-0 lead until the end of the second period, when Titan senior Ryan Zdanowicz scored the first of two St. John goals with six seconds left. Junior Jeff Garfield scored the final goal of the game at 9:26 of the third period.

The game came down to a heated battle between goalies, as Titan junior Rick Sissen stopped 22 of Shaker's 23 attempts, while Graham stopped only 15 of St. John's 17 shots.

With the win, Toledo St. John advanced to the state championship game and shut out Bowling Green 7-0. The Raiders finished the season at 26-3-1.

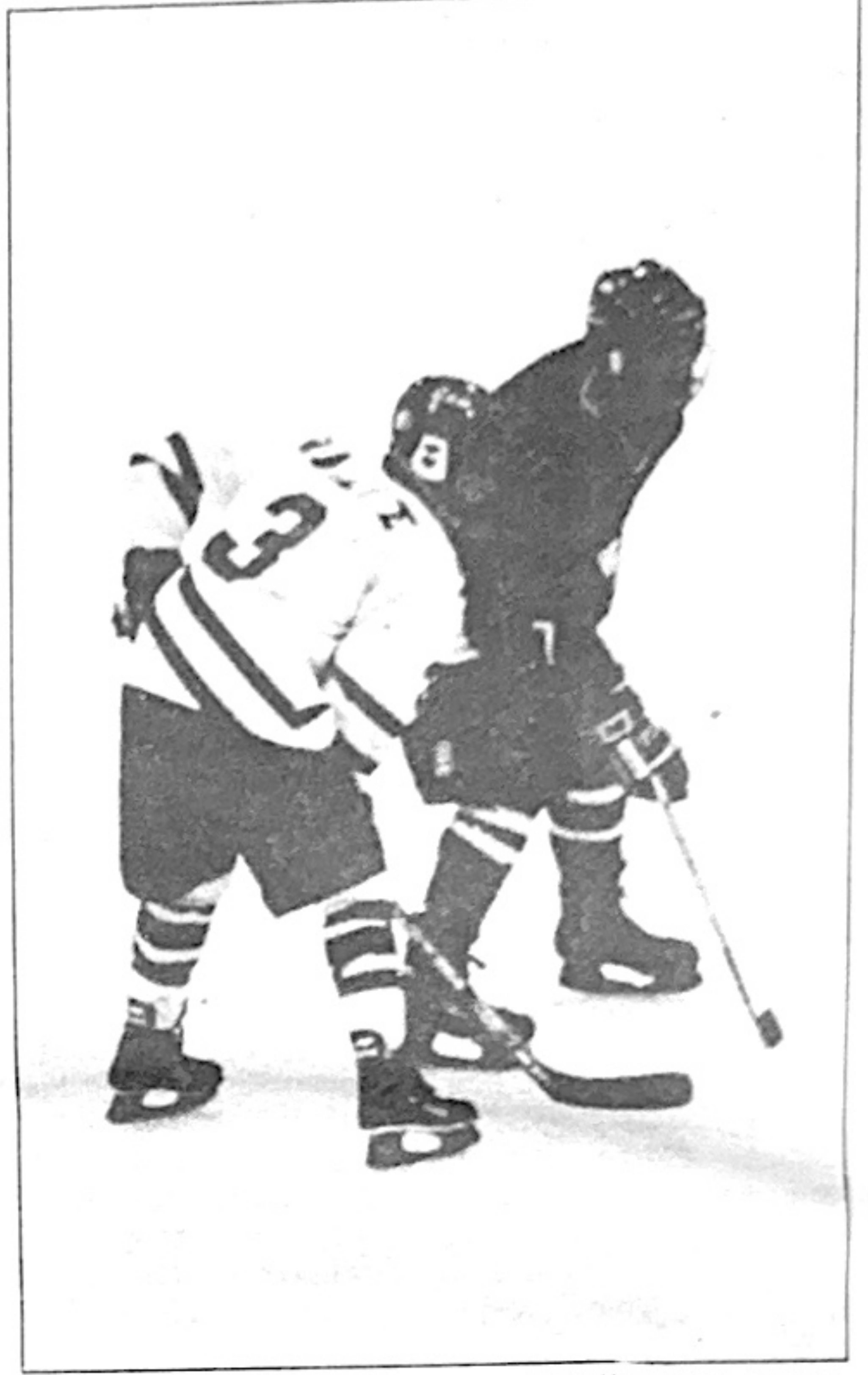
"We had a wonderful year. Anytime you win more the 20 games, you know you accomplished something. We just fell short of our goal ultimate goal, which was a state title," Simon said.

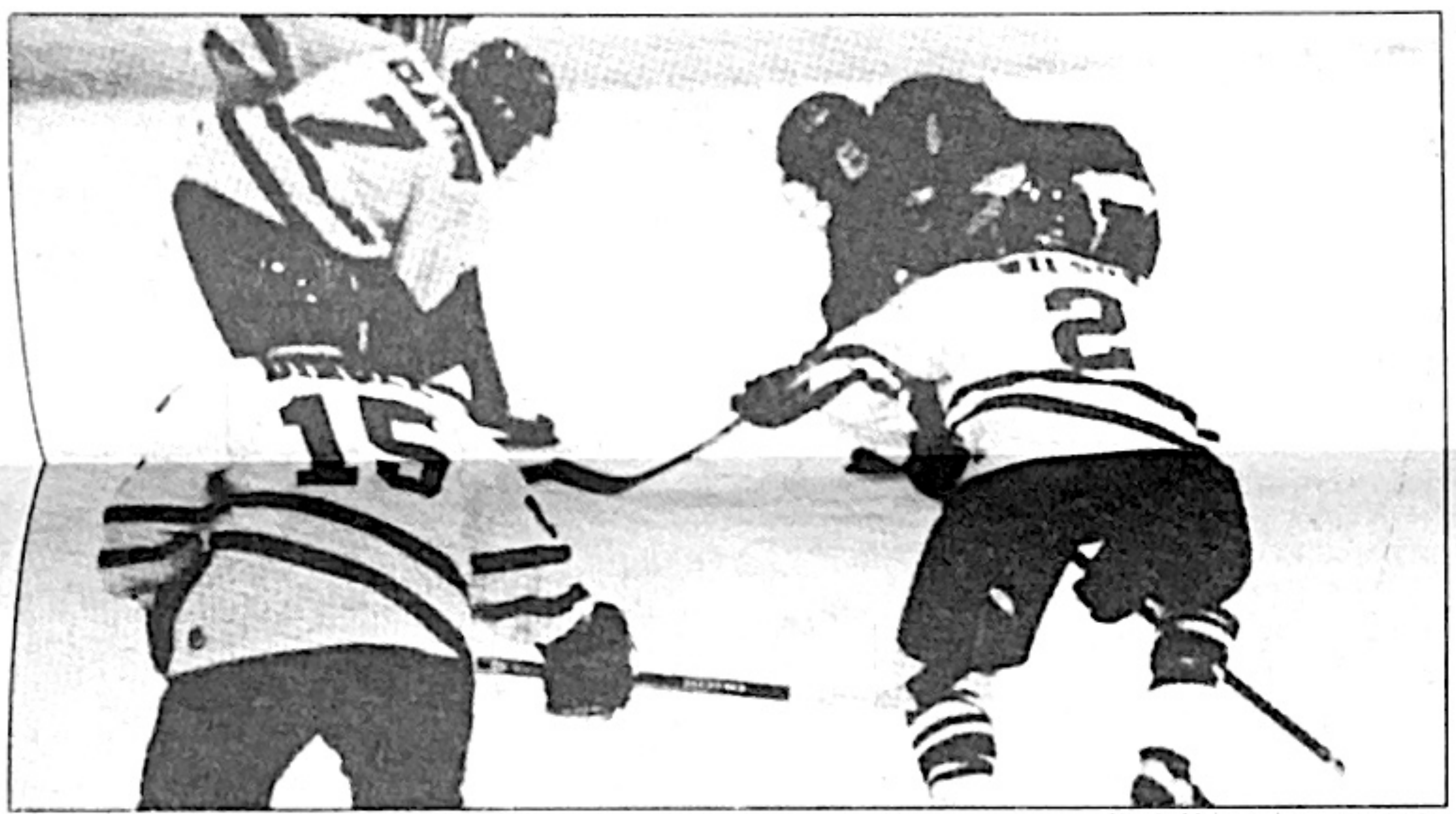
They felt the season was one to acknowledge.

"We had a great season. We didn't make it all the way, but we definitely filled a lot of great expectations," junior Howie Dingle said.

For the seniors, this was the last game of their last season. Though it ended in loss, they can look back on the season and be proud.

"Going into the season we had a lot of high expectations. We [seniors] have worked really hard for the past few years, and this year it all came together. The season was definitely memorable," senior Tom Mulligan said.


Nicole Majorczyk/The Shakerite
Freshman John Dingle awaits the puck during the district final game against the St. Ignatius at Brooklyn Ice Rink.


Nicole Majorczyk/The Shakerite
Senior Matt Wilson and junior Howie Dingle prepare to face off between Khareef Clayton and a St. Ignatius Wildcat at the district semifinal game. Shaker won 3-0.

Fund raising halted after parent complaint

• Lacrosse teams lament loss of money-making opportunities after school cancels their efforts to supplement school athletic budgets by selling T-shirts, candy

By Debra Kamin
Staff Reporter

With the recent cancellation of independent fund raising for athletics in response to a parental complaint, the fate of the activities for Shaker athletics is now uncertain.

Shaker's athletic department originally receives its funds from the overall high school budget. Athletic Director Dave Sedmak is in charge of distributing the money to the various teams based on their needs. Sports Boosters, an athletic support group independent of the high school and headed by Shaker parents, also provides money. Until recently, the rest of teams' financial needs were met with independent fund raising sponsored and carried out by the teams themselves.

Upon receiving a phone call from a parent disapproving of the men's lacrosse team soliciting money independently to buy new shorts for their uniforms, Principal A. Jack Rumbaugh forbade the receipt of any funds that come from a source other than Sports Boosters or the high school budget.

"Every sport does special things that aren't covered [by the budget]. That has become part of the fun aspect of each sport," Sedmak said. "We don't want to nickel and dime the community after they pay high taxes, but our athletic program has become one of the best in the state, and there is need for extra income."

The money raised through independent fund raising gives each team a variety of benefits. New uniforms and spring break trips to destinations such as Pennsylvania and Florida, where the men's and women's lacrosse teams are headed this month, are some common enhancements.

Senior Andy Henoch, a varsity men's lacrosse player, said he was frustrated and confused by the cancellation of his team's fund-raising privileges.

"It didn't accomplish anything because we needed the money that we would have raised regardless of how it was received, and the school is not going to provide for our trip to Pennsylvania anyway," Henoch said.

Henoch said the players ended up paying for the trip out of their own pockets.

Sophomore Erin Forquer, a women's varsity lacrosse player, was also upset about the cancellation.

"I really think it's sad it was cancelled because the team is going to Florida and fund raising was pretty much some girls' only way to pay for the trip," Forquer said. "I honestly doubt we will be able to get the money for Florida now. Our fund-raising options are taken away less than a month before our trip, and the team has games and practices after school and on weekends."

The money budgeted from the school to the athletic department is distributed according to coach requests. Each coach is permitted to make out a wish list detailing what his or her team needs for the upcoming season.

"The administration has a budget, and Mr. Sedmak is responsible for seeing that the teams have funding for their activities," said 12th grade assistant principal Richard Vlah, who also coordinates the school's fund-raising calendar.

At this time, a return to team fund raising is uncertain.

"The status of fund raising is up in the air right now," Sedmak said. "As far as we've been told, we can't do them," he said. "I'm sure there are solutions that need to be discussed. Our job is not to undermine the people above us; our job is to take the decisions of the people above us and satisfy the teams," he said.

Nicole Majorczyk/The Shakerite
The women's team gathers on the ice for a post-game photo

Athletes play for charity

• Make A Wish Foundation profits from student-led hockey reversal

Alex Kolb
Staff Reporter

Last Friday, a battle of the sexes rocked Thornton Park.

Unlike the usual bloodmatches that find Shaker's hockey team facing some of Ohio's best programs, Thornton hosted the first-annual Powder Puck Charity Hockey Match.

The game pitted the men's hockey team against some of Shaker's female athletes.

The game was organized by sophomore Megan Johnston, and proceeds from ticket sales and a raffle went to the Make A Wish Foundation.

Not only did the guys

See CHARITY, page 15